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Australian international Mark Viduka's future with Glasgow Celtic has been plunged into confusion after his new club said the striker had been booked into a clinic and appeared to be depressed.

But the Socceroo's manager, Bernie Mandich, has denied Viduka had personal problems but said of his position: "It appears everything is on hold at the moment."

The 23-year-old striker joined the Scottish premier league champion just days ago from Croatia Zagreb.

He was expected to make his debut on Sunday against Hearts.

Instead Celtic announced over the weekend Viduka had quit and said in a statement: "Mark has informed us he is not in a fit state of mind to play to play football and it is his intention to return home."

"The full extent of his difficulties only emerged today when he appeared depressed."

The news stunned the club and its supporters, because Viduka's transfer was first mooted back in August.

However within hours Celtic issued a new statement following a board meeting, saying Viduka would resume his career with the club in a month after attending the Wheathamstead Clinic in Aberdeen.

"All parties would like to stress their co-operation in this matter and the board are sure that all Celtic supporters will wish Mark well and look forward to welcoming him to the club next year," the statement said.

Mandich said he had spoken to Viduka on Sunday morning and he was in good spirits.

He denied rumours the former Melbourne Knights star had suffered a breakdown or that he had had troubles with his girlfriend since arriving at Celtic from Croatia Zagreb.

"There's no personal problems with him, there's no girl problems but it appears everything

VIDUKA DRUGS SCARE

AUSSIE SUPER STRIKER Mark Viduka has quit Parkhead within days off his arrival. Rumours circulating in the Scottish industrial city suggest that the former Croatia Zagreb star, who was on Celtic's wanted list for three months, refused to take a routine test by British government drug testing officials.

That has sparked inuendo that Viduka has a drugs or drink

is on hold at the moment.

"There's been talk that she couldn't settle there but that's rubbish."

"He's not had a nervous breakdown and I don't know anything about him suffering depression or anything else," said Mandich, football operations manager for International Manage-

ment Group.

"I find these suggestions totally abhorrent."

Viduka, who has 12 caps for Australia, was involved in a prolonged transfer deal which was delayed when he wanted to negotiate personal terms for first team appearances.

He also had problems

getting a work permit but he finally signed a four-year contract last week.

Mandich refused to comment on whether Viduka had trouble passing a medical examination at the Parkhead club.

The uncertainty over Viduka's future is a major concern for the Mel-

bourne Knights, as they stand to claim 10 per cent of his transfer fee as part of an ongoing deal with the Croatian club.

Viduka was twice the NSL player of the year and twice the league's top scorer.

Melbourne Knights president Steve Mandic said he had heard nothing

of Viduka's troubles, but could not believe the stories that were circulating about his mental state.

"He's a big strong boy mentally and physically, I can't believe that he's got those sort of problems."

"He's always been a joker and even as a teenager at this club he came

across as being more mature than he was."

Mandic said Viduka would be ideally suited to the rough and tumble of Scottish soccer.

"He's the type of bloke who will bleed for you and not complain, he's always 100 per cent and you'd have to drag him off the field."

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Wolves star set for Greece

WOLLOGONG WOLVES are reported to be on the verge of brokering a deal which would take their talented Olympic international Kosta Salapasidis to Europe.

The 20-year-old shot into prominence at the World Youth Championship in Malaysia last year when he scored a sensational four goal haul in a match against Argentina.

Under loan last season from Adelaide City the Wolves were ordered by an NSL tribunal to fork out \$35,000 to secure his signature for this season.

Now it seems that the forward could be on his way with a First Division club in Greece named as a likely destination.

And in other transfer

news affecting the club Noel Spencer has indicated that his future might lie elsewhere also.



Unhappy: Noel Spencer

Miffed at being left out of the first team squad and also the youth team in a recent game Spencer told the *Illawarra Mercury* that his manager was looking at a possible transfer.

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TV pundit Robbie Wheatley is flanked by Gabrielle Harrison, NSW Minister for Sport & Recreation, Christine Collinson (Northbridge SC) and Matthew Cannon (Wahroonga Tigers)

iSport training programme begins

"MORE and more sports are becoming highly competitive in their efforts to maintain interest in their code," said

NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Honourable Gabrielle Harrison said at the recent launch of iSport's

internet programme.

"The iSport system is at the leading edge of assisting the volunteer army carry out work in a more efficient and

cost effective method."

iSport, headed up by former Socceroo Robbie Wheatley, began its programme of training NSWASF

officials in the system last week.

The system is based on internet access to scores, results and news.

Soccer Australia fielding complaints about Sydney kick off

SOCER AUSTRALIA received a barrage of complaints last week over its decision to change the previously advertised times for the kick off in the Sydney United v Northern Spirit match.

With another derby involving Marconi and fellow Sydney club Sydney Olympic at nearby Bossley Park a decision was made to change the match details on the Monday

leading up to the games.

"No one at Soccer Australia is happy with having to change the times at such late notice - we understand that the game is for the fan, and the idea is to make it easier to get people to the games," said Soccer Australia Publicist Rozanna Bozzabalian. For several weeks, we have tried to come up with the best alternative.

"Among the suggestions was a double header, but that fizzled out for obvious reasons.

"For the last couple of weeks, we have been trying to convince the ABC to reschedule the game they were to show (Marconi v Olympic) and instead show United v Northern Spirit. This would have given the opportunity to move Marconi v Olympic back to

Saturday night (Marconi's regular time spot) and give Optus that coverage instead of the United v Northern Spirit, which would then become the ABC Match of the Day. Unfortunately, the ABC refused to budge, despite repeated attempts."

This response will no doubt fuel those who are already critical at the effect that live TV coverage is having on attendances and also the continual demands of TV on the sport in regards to kick off times.

"Obviously the two games could not be played at the same time," added Bozzabalian.

"Sydney United opted for bringing the

game forward to 3.00pm, simply because they are trying to target families, and did not feel that a game finishing around 9.30pm on a Sunday night would benefit either their crowd, nor Northern Spirit's travellers.

"Another alternative was to move the Sydney United game to Saturday night, however this was not an option with Optus, as their lines and telecast and crews were booked."

Soccer Australia has also come in for a hail of criticism concerning the draw which sees some clubs play a string of games at home while others play a series away from home.

President for Marconi

THE PRESIDENT of the Italian Republic, His Excellency Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, will visit Club Marconi on Thursday 10 December where he will be met by a number of distinguished guests including the Premier of NSW, the Honourable Bob Carr.

This is the third visit by a serving Italian president and the club will offer guests a happy hour at 7.00pm on the day of the visit by way of celebration.



THE HEARTBREAK KID

CON BOUTSIANIS was acquitted last Friday in Melbourne of any criminal charges in relation to a hold-up earlier this year. And Friday night television featured *The Heartbreak Kid*, a movie which tells the story of a young Melbourne lad with dreams of playing for South Melbourne - with Boutsianis, now at Perth Glory, doing the soccer double work including some dazzling ball skills.

CUBANS PLAYING FOR BONN

A German fourth division soccer club have come up with an audacious plan to improve its promotion chances - signing up the entire Cuban national soccer team.

Bonner SC, a small-time club in Germany's sedate seat of government, hopes to seal a cooperation agreement with the Cuban soccer federation this week.

Under the scheme the Cubans would come to Bonn to benefit from German facilities and coaching.

In return Bonner SC could field any of the Cuban players.

Bonner SC coach Rainer Thomas said club bosses came up

with the idea after watching a video of Cuba playing Brazil earlier this year.

"We thought maybe we could bring one or two Cuban players to Germany," Thomas said.

"Things developed to the extent that the Cubans said an entire team would train here, gain playing experience here and play international games against other smaller nations."

Thomas and club chairman Hans Viol flew out to Cuba last Sunday to sign the cooperation agreement.

"The Cubans want to encourage football more and above all

they want their national team in Europe to learn tactics," Viol told Bonn's General-Anzeiger newspaper.

The paper ran its story under the headline "Cuban national team in Bonner SC shirts?"

But Thomas played down the idea that the Cubans would take over the entire first team.

"The chances of that are almost zero," he said.

"I think too many players in my team are too good for that to happen."

The deal still requires the blessing of German soccer authorities.

Morocco joins WC list

Morocco has become the sixth nation to officially enter the race to stage the 2006 World Cup finals.

FIFA has confirmed the Moroccans, who unsuccessfully bid for the 1994 and 1998 finals, added their name to those of England,

Egypt, Brazil, Ghana and Germany, who all submitted their official bids to FIFA last month.

South Africa is expected to become the third African nation to declare their official interest in the very near future.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has repeatedly

advocated the 2006 finals being staged in Africa for the first time if all the conditions laid down by FIFA for hosting the tournament - stadium facilities, transportation, telecommunications, security and hotels - can be met.

FIFA's deadline for the first declaration of

intent is December 31 and the deadline for a formal written commitment to bid for the tournament is April 1 next year.

FIFA inspections will be completed by January 31, 2000 with the decision being made by the Executive Committee in March 2000.

Euro clubs reach agreement

UEFA and several of Europe's top soccer clubs have agreed to a new format for the UEFA Cup which will give unsuccessful Champions League competitors a second chance. The revamped competition would merge the existing UEFA Cup and Cup Winners Cup and start with 96 teams - the combined total of the current competitions, UEFA's European Football 2000 Task Force decided.

If UEFA's Executive Committee approves the proposal, forced by the threat of a breakaway super league, the eight teams that finish third in their European Champions League groups will join the new UEFA Cup in its third round. Under the new Champions League format, the first and second teams from all eight groups would advance to a two-leg, single-elimination second round before the quarterfinal stage.

"It means we have more quality," UEFA General Secretary Gerhard Aigner said. Under the proposal, countries whose teams reach the UEFA Cup quarterfinals will receive an extra berth in the following season's competition. The group also discussed the

financial structure of the revamped Champions League. In October, representatives of AC Milan, Real Madrid and 10 other major teams agreed not to join a breakaway Super League after UEFA promised to extend next season's European Champions' League from 24 teams to 32, playing in eight groups of four in the first stage.

Clubs have agreed that 5 percent of the money they receive from the new competition should go to the leagues of participating teams, Aigner said. The money would be distributed to clubs which don't qualify for European competitions and "must be used for education of young players," he added. UEFA expects the new-look Champions League to generate about 800 million Swiss francs (\$A909 million).

Approximately 75 percent would be distributed to clubs under both the current system of match and performance fees and the clubs' market value. The richest clubs would gain the most from the share-out, those with the best television appeal who reach the latter stages will be the best rewarded.

UEFA's Executive Committee is expected to give final approval to the revamped competitions and decide on a starting date for them when it meets next week in Lausanne, Switzerland. "We have set the sails for a start next season," Aigner said.

Tobin steps up as players' boss

By Ted Simmons

Socceroo captain Alex Tobin has accepted an extra burden to his already heavy footballing duties with his election as president of the Australian Soccer Players Association.

Tobin succeeds Kimon Taliadoros who led the Association through its inaugural years and discussions with Soccer Australia which culminated with the formation of the sport is assured at all times."

Tobin will step into an immediate hot seat with the association involved in negotiations with Soccer Australia over a new collective agreement with the current one due to expire next year.

Francis Awaritefe (Marconi) and Andrew Harper (Brisbane) are the only members of the previous executive to retain their places.

They are joined by new members David Clarkson (South Melbourne), Sean Douglas (Carlton), Craig Foster (Crystal Palace, England), Jeremy Harris (Brisbane) and Brad Maloney (Marconi).

approach in all aspects of its operations," Tobin said.

"The challenge facing Australian soccer and its players over the next few years are enormous.

"This association will need to continue to influence the games decision-making to ensure the growth and well being of the sport is assured at all times."

Tobin will step into an immediate hot seat with the association involved in negotiations with Soccer Australia over a new collective agreement with the current one due to expire next year.

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They are joined by new members David Clarkson (South Melbourne), Sean Douglas (Carlton), Craig Foster (Crystal Palace, England), Jeremy Harris (Brisbane) and Brad Maloney (Marconi).

Taliadoros, who did not

seek re-election, said the election of Tobin further demonstrated his leadership ability.

"Alex is a great on-field leader, as shown by his captaincy of the Socceroos and Adelaide City and his fellow professionals also see him as an inspiration off the field," he said.

"His leadership qualities are widely recognised by everyone involved in Australian sport."

The meeting also decided on a name change to incorporate the word football instead of soccer, which is predominantly used in Australia.

It will be known as the Australian Professional Footballers Association from next July to reflect the increasing professionalism of the sport and to link more closely with what is recognised as the biggest world game.

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INSIDE SOCCER
Australia's weekly soccer Bible

Bruce Campbell

IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

Crowds

HOW DO you make eight hundred people grow into three thousand or so? Well, it seems that Wollongong City have the answer judging by the crowd figure presented by the club after its recent game with Canberra.

I'm not bagging the Wolves, or any other club who feel that they have to grossly inflate their crowd figures to present a better public face. The situation was created years ago by those who were first allowed to Jimmy the figures and others have just been following on since.

But what does it prove other than the obvious fact that those clubs have some real deep-seated problems.

YOU HAVE to question whether there is any real future in top level Australian soccer for the traditional committee-run club.

That is the fundamental of clubs in Australia, a soccer community, whether mono ethnic or not, getting together to run a club.

Probably 99.999% of clubs in Australia are run by committees but the truth is that more and more at the top level, National Soccer League, are being run by individuals or private companies.

With that change comes that much-needed injection of finance and it is maybe a trend which is unstoppable.

Once one club does it then the signal flare has gone up that the majority will have to change or die out.

Of course, maybe I am wrong, but the success being currently enjoyed by Perth Glory

and, to a lesser extent Carlton and Northern Spirit, would suggest that I am not.

Bill Collins of Newcastle Breakers has already accepted that the Wolves brought in a private consortium some time ago, Canberra Cosmos are owned by the major stakeholders, even if they are the soccer community, and a few other clubs walk down that road in a pseudo kind of way.

In many ways the change to private ownership is a reflection on the increasing professionalism of our game. On the other hand it is a great shame to see wonderful traditions die out.

I suspect, though, that the success created by Perth Glory just cannot be matched by the average committee-run club with its handful of commercial sponsors, more often than not businesses

Farewell to league

BEING A general sports fan it's a sad day when Rugby League loses clubs like Adelaide Rams, Illawarra Steelers and Gold Coast Chargers – but then I tell the odd white lie or two!

Once we have stopped laughing up our sleeves at the oval ball game's misfortunes we should really be asking ourselves what conscious plans our own administrators are making to capitalise on the situation.

The truth is that the professional requirements of a rugby league club and its playing staff far outstrip the commercial viability of some of its centres.

And the inevitable will surely continue to happen.

But rather than the continual pessimistic talk of reducing our own NSL I for one would like to

see a public statement on the

planned growth over the next ten years.

How much finance can be generated by expanding our top set-up into areas such as Townsville and Gold Coast, currently barren wastes being pillaged by rugby?

And should the ASF not be able to give development grants to areas such as Wollongong and Adelaide to snatch up the opportunities being presented on a plate by the withdrawal of Rupe and his chums?

I know that cash is short after the DH/TV debacle and our failure to qualify for France but we are talking about planning, and all that takes is a bunch of guys sitting around a table and blowing hot air.

Now surely soccer can manage that

owned by committee members or their friends.

To run a club at the level of Perth Glory requires a major financial investment.

Money, it seems, is starting to talk loudest in our game.

The clubs which are likely to be most successful in the not-to-distant future, there-

fore, are those who will be able to generate the most cash.

And who wants to be consigned to the ranks of also-rans and second best?

CLUB PATROL

Alex Kuzmanovic is expected back in action for Adelaide Sharks next week after being sidelined with a hamstring injury.

Carlton's Mark Atkinson will be out for a couple of weeks with a back injury.

Northern Spirit report a triumphant return for **Gabriel Mendez**. The Socceroo played in Spirit's youth team where he is expected to stay until getting his match fitness back following a long lay off.

Perth Glory defender **Vinko Buljubasic** is out for the season following a broken leg sustained in an accidental challenge against Adelaide Sharks.

Marconi keeper Ante Covic is likely to be out for at least six weeks after breaking his wrist. Reports are that the Stallions have looked into the signing of former Wollongong keeper **Brett Hughes** as cover – although Canberra Cosmos and Adelaide Sharks are both said to be interested also.

And versatile Marconi Korean import **Pan-Keun Kim** will be out for three weeks after damaging knee ligaments.

Newcastle have unearthed another talent in 18-year-old **Joshua Maguire**. After impressing in youth team matches the youngster was called up for his debut last Friday against Perth Glory.

And sacked Canberra Cosmos coach **Rale Rasic** has gone on radio calling the club management "impatient for success." Under his tutelage the Cosmos had gone the first seven games without registering a single point and have never won a game under his control.

No More Rasic

WHY SHOULD anyone have any sympathy for Rale Rasic?

The man proved beyond all question of doubt that he is a total and utter has-been.

We are fed up hearing about how great a coach he was.

How about telling how bad a coach he is?

Speaking to some of the Cosmos players the stories that they tell about him are appalling.

There are so many good young coaches about in Australia just now that Rasic should now go off and retire – quietly.

Hopefully, we'll never have to put up with him again although there is always another sucker just around the corner.

P Hughes
MacKellar, ACT

Great Lee

I just want to say what a great job Lee Sterrey is doing at Newcastle Breakers.

Here is a club which is really struggling financially yet Sterrey has put it together on the field.

In fairness, John Kosmina did a wonderful job in the previous

Your WRITE

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Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

two seasons and he struggled with a lack of resources also.

J Stanhope
Adamstown Heights, NSW

NSL Division 2

The NSL should have had a second division many, many years ago.

Clubs like Canberra, Newcastle, Wollongong and Gippsland have always struggled to match it with the big boys.

That is in the same way that the likes of Coventry, Leicester and Ipswich struggle to match it with Manchester United and Liverpool.

I don't believe that the NSL should just accept the NSW Super and VSF Premier leagues as feeders.

I think that they should take control of

the second division structure right from the start.

Sadly, there is too much politics in play in our game and I am convinced that that will not happen.

But even if not it would still be a great step forward.

At least some of the top-notch State League clubs would have something better to aspire to.

I Stipic
Traralgon, Victoria

Go Jonesy

How could any coach leave John Markovski out?

Big Jonesy is sheer dead brilliant. Every-

CHEER

I HAVE to apologise for the typos which crept into my column last week; it's all my fault – I was ill.

Flattened by a 24 hour virus I couldn't even get out of my sick bed to watch my beloved Cosmos and instead had to be content watching ABC.

I really like Alan Hunter's commentary but had to chuckle when Big Al tried to convince himself that the 'Gong v Cosmos match was a derby.

You're surely not serious?

A couple of hundred kilometres, a mountain range and a totally different demographic make this as much a derby as me being asked to the Wolves Christmas party.

Speaking of which this week my email has had a couple of messages from a loyal supporter of that club.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion, even me, but I won't read your letter if they are insulting or trite – and if I don't read them then we can't print them.

It's a pity though that someone at the Wolves had to get their hubby to send a letter to the Ed!

Oh well, I'll just sink of to the Palm Court for a Xmas cheer on my ownsome

body in the Shed at Perth Glory loves him.

He is also a great character and is always having a laugh and joke with the fans.

I am glad that Carlton couldn't afford him – that will probably cost them a place in the Top Six and it has certainly cost them any hope they might have had for the champion-



Inside Soccer

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Taking his time to get out of the shadow

MANFRED SCHAEFER has been around the block a few times now. And the Adelaide Sharks coach isn't likely to be surprised by anything that is thrown his way.

When he took over the Hindmarsh-based club some doubted his sanity.

A club which has been posted as one of the league's perennial under-achievers, racked by internal turmoil and with an on-again off-again ownership battle in progress.

But Schaefer has done remarkable things in his brief time in the city of churches.

Already he has established an attractive playing style which has a pragmatic thrust for getting results.

They proved that with a good result away to Perth but even that didn't satisfy Schaefer.

"We played well there," he said.

"Very well, but we didn't win and we have to get wins."

Maybe the only real blem-



ish so far in Schaefer's season is the 4-0 thumping at Marconi.

That hurt the shrewd coach – and badly.

His side had played well in

lead up games to the return to his former club and, with Marconi struggling to find consistency, he could be forgiven for thinking that he had a chance.

But in a power-display of attacking football the Sharks were slaughtered.

That one hurt.

However, the Top 6 remains a realistic objective for Schaefer.

But is that the objective of the club's new owner?

"You'd better ask him that," laughs a man who never shirked a tackle in his playing days with St George.

"We are definitely trying to build something up here and it cannot be done overnight.

"If we are going to put down a good foundation then it is going to take some time.

"There is so much potential at this club but it still takes time."

For Schaefer a Top Six spot would be a good start, particularly if it came with the bonus of being top dog in the South Australian capital.

The Sharks have lived in the Zebra shadow for seemingly ever.

Now Schaefer wants to change all that – but insists it will take time.

Horvat still aiming for a Top 6 spot

by Paul Gough

Melbourne Knights coach Vid Horvat warned his players before their away game against Gippsland Falcons that they must get a result to stand any chance of rescuing their national soccer league season.

The Knights, who last season missed the finals for only the second time since 1988, faced a Falcons team that is in a similarly desperate position with the season already a quarter over.

"I told the players we must win or at least get a draw," Horvat said.

"All teams have ambitions of making the top six."

The Knights went into the match in 13th spot with only two wins from seven games, seven points adrift of the top six.

But after a dreadful start to the season they have slowly improved and were dogged in a 1-0 defeat at the hands of reigning champions South Melbourne.

The Knights biggest problem has been a lack of goals with only eight going in in eight matches to date.

"It has been a difficult year for us so far but our injury situation has cleared up and we are starting to improve," Horvat said of his young side.



Blades

Blades

Blades

Race for Aussie striker hots up

England Premier League soccer club Charlton has reportedly made a strong bid for the services of Portsmouth's Australian striker John Aloisi.

While cash-strapped Portsmouth have put a cut-price figure of only £500,000 (\$A1.31 million) on the 22-year-old, the Mirror newspaper reported Charlton had offered £900,000 (\$A2.36 million).

Portsmouth, formerly owned by ex Socceros coach Terry Venables, posted a £3.4 million (\$A8.94 million) loss last year and had to borrow £150,000 (\$A394,300) from the Professional Footballers Association last week to meet player payments.

Aloisi, a former scholarship holder at the Australian Institute of Sport, is its hottest commodity for the trading market.

He sits second in all English scoring leagues with 17 goals, and has



scored 26 in League matches since joining the club from Italian side Cremonese at the start of last season.

Charlton, in need of strike power to halt a slide down the Premier League table, already has two Australians in goalkeeper Sasa Ilic and his deputy Andrew Petersen.

Charlton Athletic's interest in Aloisi sees it join a short-list of top flight clubs including Coventry.

Portsmouth, last week revealed to be in dire financial trouble, had put a knockdown price of £500,000 (\$A1,312,000) on Aloisi.

The Aussie striker has been in hot form this season although Portsmouth is still struggling in fourth last place.

Cosmos situation ridiculous: chairman

Canberra Cosmos chairman Ian Knop has ordered the club's office staff to make an all out effort to solve the registration problems of the national soccer league club's Slovakian import Michal Hudec.

"This is getting ridiculous, we need a resolution of the matter and we need it soon," Knop said as his club languished at the bottom of the table without a point.

"We are eight weeks into the season and if we can't get him registered soon, there will be no alternative to sending him home."

"But I'm reluctant to do so because we have spent thousands of dollars on air fares and accommodation and he hasn't kicked a ball for us."

"As far as we can tell there are no complications - no one's saying he shouldn't be cleared

to us but it's just not happening."

Knop said the file on Hudec, who was brought to the Cosmos by former coach Rale Rasic during the winter, was bulging.

"Soccer Australia sends faxes in English, we get faxes back in Slovakian and no one makes progress," he said.

Hudec has lent a hand with some calls, but Knop said the club is hamstrung by the rule which states all international clearances must be dealt with through Soccer Australia.

The chairman said he will be pushing for Hudec to get a temporary clearance so that he would be available for the home match against Adelaide City last night as *Inside Soccer* went to press.

Tony Brennan, who took over as coach of the bottom placed NSL club from Rasic last week, is keen to get the attacking midfielder into his squad.

"The team is making progress - we came close to getting a point at Wollongong last - and Hudec could tip the balance," he said.

The Cosmos has had a difficult year with its imported players.

Defender Amarildo Miglietti missed the opening of the season after his Portuguese club, Juventu, claimed he owed it money.

Miglietti denied the debt and Juventu dropped its objections after requests for documentation.

Meanwhile the Cosmos are expected to make an announcement shortly about who will take up the reins as coach. The club has been flooded with applicants.

OCEANIA BLATTERED, AGAIN

Minnows brushed aside in 60 minute power play

Australia's hopes of mending the soccer heartbreak of 1998 met a setback on Friday when FIFA announced that Oceania's top team would face a play-off against a South American side to qualify for the 2002 World Cup.

Meeting in Zurich, FIFA's executive committee allocated the 32 berths for the 2002 finals but failed to guarantee a place for a side from the Oceania confeder-

Europe will have the biggest contingent with a total of 15 berths, including France, and Asia will have a total of four.

"Asia was decidedly unhappy about the allo-

playing for only two spots and see this as some kind of punishment."

The CONCACAF region (Central and North America and the Caribbean) has three guaran-

win a difficult two-leg play-off against the fifth placed South American team to qualify for the finals.

Australia missed out on a 1998 final

tion.

France, the 1998 champion, automatically qualify as do co-hosts Japan and South Korea.

"While the continent

has four guaranteed slots, while Africa has five.

South America will have four guaranteed places while Oceania's leading team will have to

berth when the Socceros drew 2-2 with Asia's fourth place-getter Iran in a play-off in Melbourne last November.

Argentina '93; now it is happening all over again





Charlie Dempsey: it is now time for the OFC boss to step down after this latest failure

Potential opponents for the 2002 play-off could include Bolivia, whose great record at home playing in the altitude of La Paz secured them a place in the 1994 finals.

Australia has only once made the World Cup finals, in 1974.

It lost out on a place in 1994 when it was defeated by Argentina in the last round of the qualifiers.

In 1986 Australia lost a two-legged qualifier against Scotland for a place in the finals.

South America sent five teams to France last year - Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, with Chile the

The Path to the 2002 Finals at a Glance

Europe: 15 including France (1998: 14 plus France as host)

Asia: 4 including Japan and South Korea (1998: 3 plus play-off with Oceania)

Africa: 5 (1998: 5)

North/Central America and the Caribbean: 3 (1998: 3)

South America: 5, whereby the fifth qualified team must play-off against the winners of the Oceania qualifying competition (1998: 4 plus Brazil as Cup-holders)

Oceania: winners to play-off against the fifth-placed team of South America (1998: play-off with Asia)

fifth and last to qualify.

The 64-match tour-

nament will be held between June 1 and June 30, 2002.

COMMENT

ONCE AGAIN Australia has been given the raw prawn. However, logically, and putting national passion aside, our path to the 2002 World Cup finals is a fair and equitable one.

After all we only have to play the fifth best South American side - and that is highly unlikely to be Argentina. In '93 we had to combat all of the hype concerning Diego Maradona - and beat them on a home and away basis.

That we did so well is creditable.

And with the stupidity of awarding joint host nation status to Asia someone always had to give. So, on reflection it has been a fair share out.

But what is the point of having membership of a confederation which always has to play cricket while the others fight and scrap to the death for World Cup places.

Sadly, all of the great headway made by OFC is now blown in the wind; Charlie Dempsey will be seen as a failure once more - even by his supporters.

Because of that he should step down. If the likeable New Zealand-Scot can't get Oceania a place in the World Cup finals then he should move aside and give someone else a crack at getting the big prize.

It isn't all about how you play the game, it is about winning - and we, and New Zealand, have just lost. Again.

Bruce Campbell

Kossie looks for Mac to solve scoring problems

By Wayne Heming

Scottish-born target man Stuart McLaren, has been recruited by coach John Kosmina to inject some sting to Brisbane's frontline.

The Strikers put the former AIS and Wollongong Wolves player through a series of medical checks and a full physiotherapy examination last week with Kosmina declaring him a "fine physical specimen".

"We need to score goals and he (McLaren) is good at holding the ball up while other players are tending to panic a little bit," said Kosmina.

"He plays the old fashioned style; he is very tough and he knows his way around."

McLaren, who represented the AIS at 16, had a couple of seasons in the national league with Wollongong before an overseas stint with Stirling Albion in the Scottish League.

More recently he has been playing in Hong Kong.

Kosmina is concerned about the Strikers inability to put away their numerous



adidas

scoring opportunities which have cost them a number of wins, including a recent 1-0 loss to Adelaide City.

"We need to score more goals or concede less at the other end," he said.

"We can fix the conceding up but we have to do something about putting the ball into the back of the net more regularly."

"We could have been three goals up at half time against Adelaide

and probably six goals up before they scored on the number of chances we created.

"If you're making 10 chances, you should score twice and that should be enough to win most games."

"We're not hitting the target and were getting punished for our lack of quality finishing."

Brisbane had two wins and three draws before Round 9 but it could be higher paced after dropping at least two matches in the last few minutes despite controlling play for most of the time.

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What a week with one of the world's biggest clubs for Celtic's NEW AUSSIE

By Simon Buckland

Mark Viduka's belated £3m arrival at Celtic could well be the last dabble in the transfer market for the Glasgow giants in the immediate future as Jozef Venglos turns his attention to knitting together his new material.

Australian international striker Viduka at last finalised his protracted switch from Croatia Zagreb late last week passing a medical to become Venglos' fourth major recent capture.

For head coach Venglos, who also coached the Australian national team in the 1960s, the ambition is now a period of stability to settle Viduka and fellow newcomers Lubomir Moravcik, Johan Mjallby and Vidar Riseth even though funds remains open to him.

Viduka, 22, is a player first noted by Venglos even before Celtic met Zagreb in a European Champions' League Qualifier earlier this term, and he expressed relief at matters now being concluded.

Venglos said: "He is a long-term signing who will offer us a new dimension. Viduka is a strong player who we feel can play well in the British game.

"He is a good header of the ball, can finish and can hold the ball

and bring others into the game. He is a young player, too, who can still get better.

"It is time for us to stabilise the squad, that is the most important thing for us now, and I do believe in the quality of the players that we have.

"Celtic had so many injured players earlier this season so it was important to have a stronger and bigger squad which we now have, giving me more options.

"I am not looking at any other players now, but if someone became free who is a good player, and we had information about them that could change, but there is nobody in mind now."

Viduka's transfer has proved more difficult than Venglos envisaged, and the player has paid tribute to the Slovakian for opting

but my desire to come here has been known for some time.

"I am flattered at the determination the coach and directors have shown to make me a Celtic player, and I want to help the team in their quest for the title."

Viduka, who earlier in his career declined an opportunity to join

are such a big club, I know that from first hand experience.

"My parents have been contacted by a Melbourne branch of the supporters' club and been asked to come to their annual dinner as special guests."

Celtic managing director Fergus McCann was in attendance to

lack the sheer force his powerful shot had on tennis player Mark Philippoussis's arm.

The compatriots were together at the Australian Institute of Sport for two years in younger days when Philippoussis challenged Viduka to prove his soccer skills.

Philippoussis, who has since cultivated a



Difficult at Zagreb

By Bryn Palmer in Glasgow

"Croatia Zagreb were desperate to keep me initially because of the Champions League games and they weren't too keen to let me go before the end of the season," said Viduka on his arrival in Glasgow.

"They were making it pretty difficult for a while but I'm just happy it's all resolved now and that I'm finally here.

"I can't wait to get underway because Celtic are a huge club and this is a great move for me."

Viduka's arrival has inevitably prompted speculation over the long-term future of Norwegian misfit Harald Brattbakk, who has been a peripheral figure in recent weeks with the emergence of youngster Mark Burchill and the impact of Slovakian international Lubomir Moravcik.

Rosenborg, who will have former coach Nils-Arne Eggen back in charge on January 1, have already declared an interest in re-signing Brattbakk should he be deemed surplus to requirements at Parkhead.

Borussia Dortmund welcome Viduka but because of his father's made it clear there was

reputation as one of his own sport's fastest servers, agreed to a best of 10 penalty shoot-out with Viduka.

"Mark had a Greek background so thought he was good at soccer so he challenged me to a test where we would fire around ten shots at the other in goal," Viduka said.

"I cracked a good one, and he went to save it, and he saved it, but it broke his arm, I hope I can do the same to keepers here - not that I want to break anyone's arm, I'd rather they miss the ball."

The gentle anecdote belied the relief felt by Australian international Viduka to have finally sealed a protracted transfer from Croatia Zagreb which was some months in the making.

He added: "I know that the aim of the club is to win the league and get into the Champions' League and I hope to help the team reach that level.

"I will not really be involved with it at all. I will leave it to others, but I will not be leaving earlier than the Spring and have not changed my original plan to offer shares to existing holders first."

And Mark Viduka aims to make an impact for Scottish soccer champion Celtic, but admits it might

lesser players earlier, but Jozef has shown admirable patience to get his number one choice."

McCann, who is still in contract talks with the likes of Mark Burchill, admitted the time is approaching where players will now be leaving rather than arriving.

Celtic head coach Venglos refused to dwell on whether Norwegian misfit Harald Brattbakk might now be surplus to requirements, but was hardly glowing in his appraisal of the player.

He said: "Marko is a different type of player to Harald whose qualities I still respect, but I think from my point of view I gave him a fair chance and he responded okay."

Moore Influence

Celtic's Australian acquisition Mark Viduka insists he has no worries about swapping the European high life with Croatia Zagreb for the Scottish Premier League.

The Aussie striker finally arrived in Glasgow as one of the most protracted transfer sagas in Scottish football history neared its conclusion.

Viduka was paraded at Parkhead last Friday for Scotland's media.

Viduka revealed that a chat with former Ranger and Australian team-mate Craig Moore had long convinced him of the merits of a move to Glasgow despite his frustrations at the time needed to seal the move.

"I spoke to Craig a while back and he said it is a good league to play in and this is a good place to be," said Viduka, who has signed a four-year contract.

WORK PERMIT AGONY

Celtic's new £3 million (\$A7.93 million) recruit Mark Viduka endured a fortnight's agony about a work permit before signing for the one-time European Cup winners.

The Department for Employment and Education debated at length over his work permit application - the problem seemed to stem from the number of international caps he has acquired.

Players must have appeared in 75 per cent of their country's internationals over the past two years, but Viduka's tally is 54 per cent. His agents said there were extenuating circumstances, one of them being that Europe-based players were often given dispensation from home internationals.

That argument appears to have won over the Department of Employment with a spokeswoman saying: "Celtic have received verbal confirmation that Marco Viduka has been granted a work permit."

"A formal letter will follow, and it is now up to the club to register the player. The work permit has immediate effect." Viduka, who has already signed a four-year deal with Celtic, has been training on his own since the transfer was agreed.

Aussie Stars

TIM CAHILL - MILLWALL F.C.

By Andrew Davis

Many people know of the famous footballers who have come from Australia and moved overseas.

In fact the major newspapers focus on these boys.

However there are many who play their football overseas and few people back here know anything about them at all.

At Millwall there have been some famous Aussie names along the way.

The likes of David Mitchell, David Oldfield, Jason Van Blerk, Ali Edwards, Carl Veart, and now Lucas Neill have all played at the new Den.

Relatively unknown Aussie ex-pat Tim Cahill also plays at the club and is playing a big role in the club's future.

Tim played six years in the junior ranks of Sydney Olympic.

His father was good friends with current Olympic assistant coach John Sentos and it was Sentos who encouraged Cahill to develop his footballing talents.

For one season Cahill plied his trade with Sydney United's youth team before going to the UK.

Whilst he was in Australia he also played for the Wolves where he played with the likes of Mile Sterjovski and Michael Santalab.

Unlike so many other youngsters who have gone on to bigger things in football Tim did not go to the AIS.

He had spent his

Tim Cahill

Preferred position: Attacking centre midfield (plus a utility man)

Best aspects of your game: Aerial attributions, making the box to create chances because playing for Millwall we like to play HARD.

Team you supported as a child: Manchester United

Favourite player: Ronaldo

Toughest Opponent: Nigel Quashie (Forest), Jose Dominguez (Spurs)

Funniest Team mate: Neil Harris

Favourite hobbies: Golf, Relaxing

Favourite TV show: Simpsons

Favourite Music style: Dance

Five people you would get stuck on a desert island with:

Anna Kournakova, Ronaldo's wife, Mariah Carey, Posh Spice, and Natalie Imbruglia.

Advice to a young player looking to play in Europe: Be disciplined and have a 100% attitude to what you want to do. As a Millwall coach would say Pride, Passion, Purpose.

highschool days at Kingsgrove North before having to make a crucial decision half way through year 12.

Kelly Cross handed him an opportunity to go and trial with Nottingham Forest.

Tim Cahill believed in himself enough to grab the opportunity and whilst he did not end up at Forest he did make the grade at Millwall.

It meant starting all over, going through the youth system and a steady progression to the first team.

Or so it was thought.

However, before too long Cahill was making his first team debut against Bournemouth.

Injury has interrupted Tim's career on several occasions.

He has had injuries causing stitching to his feet right through to plastic surgery!

However on each occasion he has fought his way back and played in the first team once more.

Today the kid who did not even play in the NSL plays regular first team football for the Lions.

"It is unbelievable to play here, especially as the new Den is starting to fill up these days," he says.

"Our game against Fulham saw 15,000 people here.

"It is great to play in big stadiums and in front of loads of people but it's just

as excellent to be part of a great squad.

"I have been here for 18 months and excluding the injuries I have gone really well.

"Millwall has been great for me, I play centre midfield and Lucas and I have seen the side build around us.

"Apart from Nigel Spink, our goalkeeper, we have a very young side.

"We are looking at promotion of course and we really have a team of the future.

"We need to hold onto our players though, there has been a lot of talk of Lucas being looked at by a few clubs.

don't think I would ever have let myself go home.

"As a player I have learnt so much over here.

"Moreover, as a Millwall representative I have learnt how to toughen up on the field although I so far have only picked up one yellow card!

"I came over here with something to prove to a lot of people in Australia.

"However there were people who stood by me, my parents especially.

"They have been the biggest influence in my career and if it were not for them I would not be here so thanks a million to them.

"I think I have proved a lot of people wrong and I

playing in the green and gold.

Ignoring young players just because they play overseas would be a costly mistake.

He qualifies for both the junior side going to Nigeria next year, and the Olympics team.

As for youngsters looking to go overseas and play Tim believes it depends on their attitudes: "They must be a positive person and believe in themselves.

"They must realise it is a long term commitment and it is not easy leaving their family back in Australia.

"They must love football 100% and have the strength to turn a dream into reality.

"Lucas Neill is great company for me, we get on really well together. When Carl Veart was here it was great too, he is a fantastic player and a really down to earth bloke."

have just signed a new four year contract with the club.

"I want to gain more first team experience and be a part of Millwall's success.

"Football life is great and I do enjoy seeing others over here from Australia.

"I am especially happy for Nick Rizzo showing just what he can achieve."

"As for his international career Tim has to come to another decision shortly.

"While he would love to play for Australia he also qualifies for England U19s, Scotland and Ireland.

"As an inside forward, though, tucked in behind the front two, Australia should want his skills

"After a year you do get lonely but you must push through that barrier."

Tim's family live out in the Narellan and Mornington Park area of Sydney, and they must be very proud of him.

Hopefully soon others will come to recognise Tim Cahill and Australian football can be just as proud of him.

Modestly he sums things up saying: "I'd prefer to be known as a quiet achiever."

It is not easy to go overseas and make your name in football, we certainly wish Tim all success in going down that road.

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Johnno still scoring goals



Australia's former Liverpool soccer star Craig Johnston has scored a goal in the corporate world, having been appointed to an executive position with sport shoe manufacturer Reebok.

Johnston, the boy from

rubber upper and blade-style soles for adidas' hugely popular Predator brand shoe.

He also played a large part in designing the ball for this year's World Cup, the Express reported.

Wilson will be the next star

By Bruce Campbell

FORMER Canberra Cosmos defender Gordon Hunter has tipped big things for his one-time defensive partner, Lindsay Wilson.

The former Scotland Under 21 international is expected back in Canberra this week as the Cosmos fight to get football back on track in the national capital following the axing of coach Rale Rasic.

Hunter is keen to add his experience to the league strugglers and is pledging a long term commitment to soccer in Australia.

"I like Canberra, it is a great place to live," the quiet-talking defender said from his Edinburgh home.

"There are good players in the NSL and Lindsay Wilson is one of them."

"He really has everything it takes to make it to the top."

"He is a strong runner, is fit, has good ball skills and has the



right sort of attitude.

"I was very impressed with Lindsay in my time at the Cosmos and I think he really could go all the way."

"I see a big future for Wilson in a full time environment like Britain where he really

could be one of the next big Aussie stars."

Wilson was at one time only regarded as a token local presence in the Cosmos squad but the Tuggeranong United product has continued to defy his critics.

After a series of

stand-out displays last season he was recommended by then coach Branko Culina for a Young Socceroo call-up.

Since then Wilson has taken his chances well and continues to be one of the Canberra club's best players.

Real back on top of the world

By Brian Williams

Real Madrid was crowned world club champion for the first time since 1960 when it defied its domestic form to outrun Vasco da Gama of Brazil to win the World Club Cup 2-1 in Tokyo last week.

Real Madrid, whose indifferent league form has it eighth in the Spanish first division, capitalised on an opening own goal by Vasco to regain the form and pride that carried it to the European Cup last May.

"This win will give us impetus for the rest of the season," said elated Real Madrid coach Guus Hiddink. "Tonight we were a bit lucky with the first goal; but we kept attacking and that's what won it for us."

With the scores locked and seven minutes to play, Raul latched on to a long raking pass from Seedorf and brilliantly eluded two defenders before planting a perfectly-placed curling right-foot shot for the winner.

Raul said his final dazzling dis-

play of footwork in front of the net was pure instinct.

"I wasn't thinking. The game was even and both teams had a chance to score. I just took the chance," he said.

Real, marshalled superbly by Fernando Hierro and Manuel Sanchis at the back and inspired by Raul in attack, gave a battling display that was ultimately too good for the Brazilian side who mixed some excellent approach play with periods of sluggish mediocrity, possibly due to spending 12 days in Japan without a match.

"We just gave Real too much space to do what they wanted. They took the few chances they had, we didn't," Vasco boss Antonio Lopes said.

Vasco had 15 shots on goal, one more than Real. Real, whose only previous victory in this competition came in the inaugural match in 1960, followed Ajax Amsterdam (1995), Juventus (1996) and Borussia Dortmund (1997) as recent European winners. South American countries still the lead overall tally of victories by 20-17.

Fixture Change:

The Carlton v Marconi has been re-scheduled for Saturday 19th December with a 7.00pm kick off.

Olympic reeling with injuries

UTS Sydney Olympics injury woes continue with confirmation that Norman Tome and Nick Carle will be out of action for some time.

Worst of the two is Carle, who is expected to be out of action for about eight to 10 weeks, after X-rays confirmed he had broken a bone in his foot.

He is likely to be in a cast for the next 4-6 weeks and will need at least another four before he's right to take the park again.

Meanwhile another Socceroo lured to Portsmouth by Venables, striker John Aloisi, is reportedly set for a move to the Premier League.

These injuries come on top of the season ending knee injuries to defenders Kimon Taliadoros and Adam Ciantar plus the pre-season injury to new striker Adrian Cervinski.

Also depleting the squad was the suspension of troubled mid-

fielder Adem Poric.

Both Cervinski and George Sorras (Knee reconstruction) are expected back at some stage during January.

The injuries to Tome and Carle, both strikers, has left coach Branko Culina with selection dilemmas, as to who will partner Pablo Cardozo up front.

With no other recognised striker on the players list, Cardozo's clinical finishing is needed now more than ever.

And while Brisbane Strikers remain favourites to sign want-away Poric there are a number of other clubs in



Kimon Taliadoros

the queue for the talented former English Premier league player.

Summer Fun Clinics in Melbourne

The City of Melbourne has issued its "Summer Fun in the Parks 98-99" programme and included amongst ten different entertainment and activity themes is a series of Sports Clinics.

What is to be delivered, according to the Melbourne City Council, are formal sports clinics in a range of sports including soccer. In fact, the world game kicks off the series on Monday 4 January 1999 from 10:00am to 12:00noon at Royal Park, Brens Oval and Pavilion, off Macarthur Road, Parkville.

Other sports are to follow on successive Thursdays and Mondays throughout January. The clinic will be coached by Bobby McLaren, Andy Bozikas, Sonny Sevin, and Andrew Muggleton and is aimed at young people from 8 to 18 years of age.

El Tel in the clear

By Trevor Marshallsea in London

Former Socceroo coach Terry Venables was last week cleared of any wrongdoing in the transfers of five Australian players to his former club Portsmouth.

Hampshire police closed their investigation into the transfers, sparked by claims of 'bad business practice' from the financially embattled club's current board.

In a statement, police said: "Hampshire constabulary's fraud squad has completed its evaluation of paperwork and information concerning the transfer of Australian players to Portsmouth Football Club during last season.

"We have found no evidence of dishonest or corrupt practice by any person involved in those transfers, and that investigation is now closed."

Venables bought first

division Portsmouth for a nominal £1 (\$A2.62) fee in August, 1996, and quickly stocked the club with Australians who had come under his eye as Socceroo coach.

The transfers under investigation reportedly included those of Robert Enes from Sydney United for £95,000 (\$A249,280), Hamilton Thorpe from West Adelaide for £75,000 (\$A196,800) and Craig Foster from Marconi for £300,000 (\$A787,200).

Venables has commented little on the matter, other than to say he knew nothing about the police investigation.

The police probe into Portsmouth is not over, however, with more investigations to be conducted into other business matters at the club.

"We are continuing our assessment of the original complaint made by directors of Portsmouth Foot-

ball Club, which alleged instances of bad business practice at the club," the statement said.

Venables moved to another first division team, Crystal Palace, this year.

That club has recently settled a transfer dispute over two Chinese players, Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai.

Meanwhile another Socceroo lured to Portsmouth by Venables, striker John Aloisi, is reportedly set for a move to the Premier League.

FOOTNOTE: Last week *Inside Soccer* Marconi chairman Tony Labbozetta made a stinging attack at the former Socceroo boss claiming that he was involved directly in the transfer of players while he was Australian national coach.

As yet the Australian Soccer Federation has made no statement.

These injuries come on top of the season ending knee injuries to defenders Kimon Taliadoros and Adam Ciantar plus the pre-season injury to new striker Adrian Cervinski.

Also depleting the squad was the suspension of troubled mid-

Ericsson Cup end term Report Card

With so many looking to the future of the game what role will the present clubs play – and how do they look at present?



Adelaide City:

There has to be some questions about their financial position. Fortunately their scouting system and youth programs always bring up quality players which means they do not have to rely on large finances. The Zebras have good support and a good history. However history is nothing when it comes to survival, look at Sydney City. Hindmarsh Stadium will have no Rugby League in the future so City have that ground. Prospects of survival: Very Good.

Marconi:

In the long run Marconi will have to develop their ground even further. There is the option of moving to the Liverpool Stadium development but the current ground's proximity to the social club is a huge asset. So a 15,000 all seater stadium is a key to survival into the future. The club must also convince its fans to turn up every week as attendances lately have been poorer than they have been in recent years. Financially the club is well off and both on and off the pitch they have a great team. Prospects of survival: Excellent

South Melbourne:

The ground is great, the supporters are vocal, some drive you crazy with their stupidity at times, but they love football and there are a lot of them. The shining example of successful football in Melbourne. The administration seems to go through dramas but get through. On the park they have a great team and can obviously afford a team full of star names. Without South Melbourne football could well die in the southern capital. Tradition is also on the positive side of the ledger even if it counts for little in the long run. Prospects of survival: Excellent

Melbourne Knights:

At least they have a ground, or should that be at most they have a ground. To many outsiders the medium to long term aims of this club are unclear. The finances seem to depend on Mark Viduka and that can not be a good thing. They even lost club stalwarts like Andrew Marth this off-season. Things are not good at the Knights, the support was low even for their big clash with Sydney United. Perhaps an Eastern Suburbs side from Melbourne could be looking to replace them in the NSL. Prospects of survival: Extremely poor.

Sydney Olympic:

The club needs the supporters to come to Belmore Oval before eventually the club needs to move back to the SFS. The club also needs the supporters to learn some patience as it re-emerges as a giant of the game. Financially, the house is in order at present but with one or two departures things could swing the other way and this must be kept in the forefront of everyone's thinking. Good team on the park, good coaches and a strong youth set up. What the club really needs is a marketing campaign targeting new audiences. That is why a move to the SFS is part of the key, then it can advertise itself as the Eastern Suburbs team. It also means they won't be involved in a division of the Western Suburbs support by Sydney United and Marconi. Prospects of Survival: Good

With Inside Soccer's Andrew Davis

Carlton:

On the field they are strong; even their off-field administration seems to be solid, however the question of crowds is a major long term concern. The big backers will not continue putting money into a club with no support. If that means dropping Carlton as the team name and moving then so be it. Their ground is not the world's best and maybe they need to look at moving somewhere else in Melbourne. A more radical proposal would be to move to Geelong to cover that area that has developed soccer talent for a long time. It does not matter what happens on the pitch if the crowds do not come in then it does not augur well for the future. Prospects of survival: Average

Adelaide Sharks:

With Con Makris taking over the financial position is much better than anytime in the past. On the park the club have been less successful and certainly need that to escape the shadows of the Zebras. Having reinvented itself as the Sharks it may have been an idea to move away from Hindmarsh where they have ended up. Perhaps a longer term, more radical, view is to move to Glenelg or somewhere around there. The Sharks do need their own separate ground so to avoid having a merged identity. Without that then many will point the finger for them to go. They also have to build on their supporter base. Prospects of survival: Average

Gippsland:

You would have to mark this card as most improved. They do not have finances of a big team but they are double the player budgets of some teams so they are okay in that regard. The more professional marketing approach this season has helped the club gain more attention in the eyes of the public. They have a nice little ground and on the park a tough team to beat. They have a long way to go and this time last season you would have said they had no chance of survival however many clubs could take a tip on how to improve their lot from the Falcons.

Prospects of survival: Average to Poor (but improving)

Canberra:

No one man can turn this club around, look at the list of coaching casualties. It is time for a new broom through the Cosmos. The administration has failed to put a top class team on the park and spectators in the stand, it is time to stop blaming the coaches and look at themselves. So should many of the players, average at best, who started their own recent display of player power. If they were as vocal on the pitch as off it then perhaps they would not be bottom of the table. Geography means nothing in this case, were it not the Olympics had one group in Canberra the Cosmos would not be around for very much longer. Canberra people are not interested in NSL football it is clear, so at present the Cosmos should not play in the league. They do not even play all their home games at home in a season.

Prospects of Survival: Zero

Northern Spirit:

Crowds excellent, financial backing excellent, administration excellent. Couldn't be better? Actually it could. The doubt over the future of North Sydney Oval haunts NS. If they can't make the necessary improvements they will have to move and wherever they move it will affect crowd figures. The current Oval is so picturesque, so ideal, the crowd noise so vocal. The only problems being it is not a football shaped ground – and the centre pitch area. Spirit need to settle on a home and quickly otherwise all of this season's gains will have to be won over again when they move again. The club does have an air of invincibility about it around Sydney, even when it does not win. Then again so do the likes of Manchester United. However this must be matched with performance on the park and to be fair their games so far have not been quality top of the shelf displays. They will need a few of those to consolidate support and win something (the best way to keep your support for years to come, and the best way to build an instant tradition.)

Prospects of survival: good to excellent

Brisbane Strikers:

They need to remarket themselves in Brisbane where they never really built on their grand final success. That season the back room men (and women in this case) built a great buzz for the team but those supporters have not turned up this season. Being a one-team-town they should do better than they are in terms of crowds. Financially they can not compete with the big teams and this is of concern especially as it is obviously effecting the on-field performances. If they are to survive the club must look mainly at the administrators and replace them if they can not improve the current situation. Complacency should not be part of their attitude as another Brisbane club can always come in their place in the long term. Brisbane Lions and City have both played in the NSL before remember.

Prospects of survival: Average

Sydney United:

Sadly it looks as if the destabilisation campaign of the last few years by certain individuals has had its effect. Realistically the return to Edensor Park has not brought enough of the old supporters back to revitalise the club. Financially things don't look too great. They are not marketed to any districts in Sydney, only to one community. They have got a fantastic football ground, and a playing surface which is the envy of many. However that does not make a team. Money and crowds do. The side on the park is performing above what many thought capable and in David Mitchell they have a guy who can lead a team. They need more board members like him to go out to the public and show just what a great club it is, otherwise the club will die. No relocation prospects for them, for if a southern Sydney side started up it would be not based on any current clubs.

Prospects of survival: Very poor

Perth:

Desperately need to sort out where they will play next season. Preferably build a 20-25,000 all-seater football stadium. Financially the team are strong, as they are on the park. A one-team-town with wonder-support but there is almost an argument for a side out of Fremantle to compete in the west. The pinnacle of all NSL team's ambitions. A bigger stadium would be the cherry on the cake.

Prospects of survival: Excellent

Wollongong Wolves:

Need to gain the lease of Brandon Park and build the grand stand on the other side. Also need to keep the local community on side in terms of ticket prices. After the takeover finances are strong. A good team, despite their recent form, and a great tactical coach. Good youth system, exemplified by the new youth team. Must be careful with the youngsters they let go. Being close to Sydney means they get good support from the southern suburbs so a new team out of that area may be a threat to some of their support.

Survival prospects: Good to excellent

All the above may seem harsh on all the clubs but many need to realise their long term planning may not hold water in this ever expanding game of football in Australia. Hopefully by pointing out some of the areas for development the clubs can take them under their belts, build action points and drive them into reality. Hopefully then none of the current 15 NSL clubs will have to go out of the league in the short, medium or long term future.

Newcastle Breakers:

Trying to sell your ground to survive says it all. Without intervention from another consortium, probably from Sydney, the club will fail to survive. They probably have the lowest player's budget of any NSL club, and that is reflected by the team on the pitch. Their survival will come off the park from good financial backers and on the park from the development of a strong youth policy, something coach Lee Sterrey is well known for doing. If those two things come off then there is a future, albeit better if the club owned the ground. If this fails then there is little prospect of the Breakers surviving the big waves crashing in on top of them.

Prospects of survival: Poor

THE GODFATHER



On Summer Soccer

"We hope to go full summer (with the NSW Super League) in October 1999. Our next competition will end in July which will give our players about a three month break before the following season starts."

"Promotion and relegation to the Super League is something that we haven't even discussed yet. "Entry into Super League is by invitation but we have always had some kind of promotion and relegation."

"The team which won last year's First Division, Fairfield Bulls, has been promoted while the team which finished last in Super League, St George, was relegated."

On Promotion & Relegation with the NSL

"I think that you have to have a re-vamp of the game from the top. At the moment there is a lot of talk about a second division NSL. The way I see that happening is for the top division to become a 10 team competition with the clubs which can't make

THAT IS WHAT they call NSWSF President Peter Gray in Sydney's Greek press. And with a new season on the horizon the former Sydney first grade goalkeeper turned administrator took time out from his busy Sporting Supplies business in Hurstville to talk about the future and also some of the problems facing his members as they face up to a new challenge.

that going into a second division joined by six clubs from the State Leagues.

"The top teams from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia have got to play off for a position in the NSL."

"Then I think you will find that the State Leagues get stronger."

"Everybody tells us that our competition isn't any good but our biggest problem is losing players to the NSL. This season we lost another 22 players."

"So I don't know how anyone can tell us that our standard isn't good when all of these players are playing first grade in the national league."

On Players doubling up for winter football

"Our First Division is nearly as strong as our Super League because there are so many players from the NSL playing there during the winter. "That competition will remain in winter and if it is promoted correctly it will only make it a stronger competition."

On Super League

"There will always be a NSW Super League. Whether that becomes a 10 or 12 team

competition there will always be a Super League."

"The number of clubs in that competition depends on the facilities of the clubs."

"Nearly all of our clubs have their own grounds and all bar two have lighting at those grounds."

"Over the last few years the NSWSF has been giving \$50,000 grants to our clubs to improve their facilities."

"I don't know any other federation in

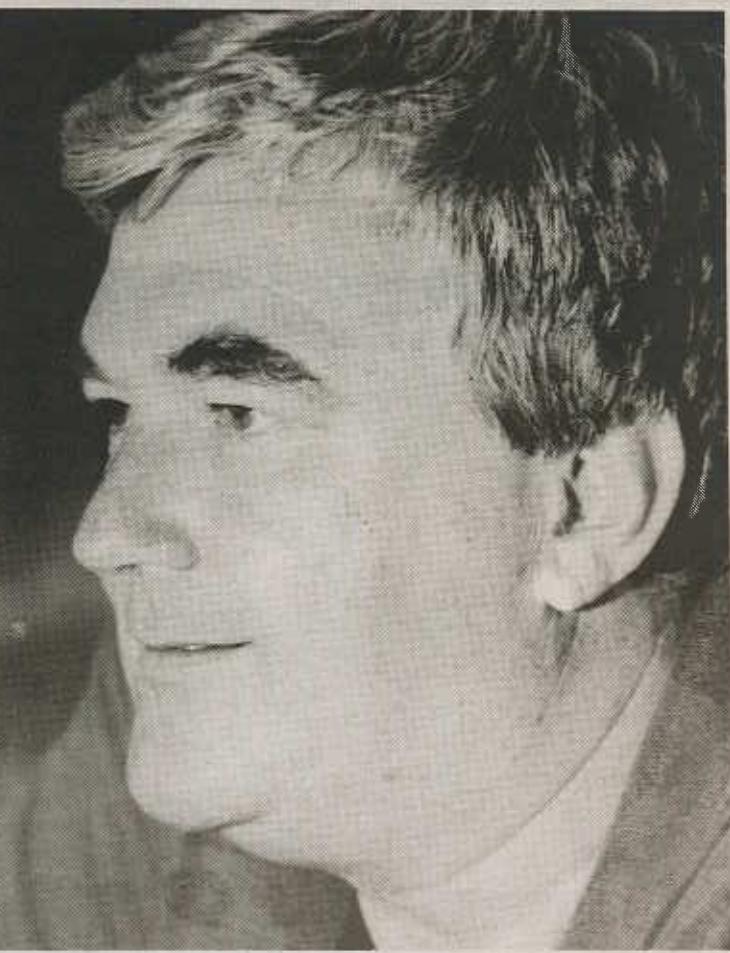


Australia

which has done that – including Soccer Australia."

On extending Super League membership into other areas

"The reason Canberra Metros



On Super League Status

"The criteria for Super League membership is mainly based on facilities. Clubs don't have to have a large junior base, that isn't how we assess potential Super League clubs."

were excluded from the Super League was simply because the ACTSF did not re-apply for them to be there. They just didn't nominate."

"We would have to sit down and

look at other potential areas, maybe even Wagga and Griffith also. I have to be honest enough to say that we have to protect the rights of our own clubs."

Bosnich goes under the knife

Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich on Saturday underwent key-hole surgery in a bid to try to cure the shoulder problem that has dogged him for the past two months.

Bosnich was under the care of surgeon Ian Bayley, who performed similar operations on British javelin throwers Steve Backley and Mick Hill.

The Australian international saw a fourth specialist in midweek and it was then decided to go ahead with the operation – which is expected to sideline him until the New Year.

Villa manager John Gregory has already admitted that Bosnich, who is set to leave Villa on a free transfer under the Bosman rul-



ing in the summer, has a "deep-rooted problem."

He was urging the former Manchester

United player to play through the pain barrier but there has been no improvement in his condition. Bosnich suf-

fered the injury in the English Premiership match with Coventry at Highfield Road in early October.

Danny out, Jonesy makes three tun

By Scott Coghlan

Perth Glory was forced to rest star goalkeeper Danny Milosevic (pictured below) for its Round 9 National Soccer League clash with Newcastle at the Breakers Stadium.

The Australian Olympic team 'keeper was unable to take part in training last Wednesday and was replaced by Tony Franken, who also replaced him in Perth's 5-1 win over Canberra earlier this season.

Midfielder Vinko Buljabašić had already been ruled out for most of the season after breaking his leg against Adelaide, and was replaced by Con Boutsianis.

And in more positive news for Perth, experienced Perth striker



John Markovski played his 300th game against the Breakers.

Wade joins condemnation of FIFA decision

By Ted Simmons

Former Socceroo stars have slammed FIFA's decision to play off the Oceania winner against a South American team for a place in the 2002 World Cup finals.

In the last World Cup, Australia lost to Asian side Iran in the final round playoff, while Argentina beat the Socceroos for a berth in the 1994 finals.

Despite the general criticism, there was still a belief Australia could qualify if it could field its top team.

"Thank you FIFA for that slap in the face. I'm appalled at the decision," former Socceroo captain Paul Wade said.

"But our chances are

still good if we can get the Socceroos together and start playing games now.

"There's less than two years to go to the start of qualifying matches and we should try to use the free weekends available in Europe.

"Preparation is the key and if Soccer Australia can't afford a top coach, they should seek a major company to sponsor a head coach as soon as possible."

Current national league player-coaches Graham Arnold and David Mitchell and former international Robbie Slater were dismayed at the decision by FIFA.

Slater described it as a disgrace and admitted any South Ameri-

can team would provide tough opposition.

He said Australia should get past New Zealand with a full strength team but the South American sides were largely superior to any team in Asia.

Arnold, who took part in four World Cup campaigns, said it was a bad day for Australian soccer.

"We'd be a chance at home but it would be a daunting task, as we've found out in the past, to overcome the South American conditions and their fanatical supporters," he said.

"Australia could put together a good squad with players like Paul Okon, Ned Zelic and the Olyroos as backup.

"However this draw makes life more difficult."

Mitchell was confident a top Socceroo side would perform well against most countries although the new draw was a blow.

He repeated earlier suggestions that Australia should be part of Asia and added another alternative was for Australia and New Zealand to form a combined Australasian team to take part in the World Cup.

"Nations like Canada, Mexico and the United States always seem to get there each time with a far easier run while we have the hard road to travel," he said.

Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella admitted the prospect of playing a South American side in the final qualifi-

fying round was a tough one.

"Our preference clearly would have been for the Oceania group winner to have been given direct qualification," he said.

"(But) if we're not good enough to qualify against the fifth best team in the South American group, then I don't think we deserve to reach the finals."

"We did expect a change in the qualifying path because South Korea and Japan are qualified as hosts for 2002," he added.

FORMER NATIONAL SKIPPER PAUL WADE: Angry at FIFA World Cup decision



Talking Soccer with Carlton S.C.'s SEAN DOUGLAS

Roly's World XI: Part 2

IN MY LAST column I named what I thought would be a great defensive platform for our truly World XI.

Churchill (right back and Captain), Goliath (centre back), Genghis Khan (centre back) and finally, Hitler (leftback).

This issue it's the midfielders turn, so here we go.

Centre Midfield: Napoleon Bonaparte: The obvious choice for midfield general.

The way he reads the game is nothing short of sensational.

In two seconds flat he can see the opposition's weaknesses and then frame an attack that will exploit them.

Sure, he made a few mistakes leading France in that big match against England at Waterloo a few years back, which knocked his confidence.

But I think he could be persuaded to put his boots on once more.

Left Half: Aristotle: A thinker, a communicator.

A midfielder must be both these things.

He must work out the right option in a split second and must communicate to all around him just what is going on.

Not only was Ari a great thinker, he practically invented it in the first place.

Why, if he hadn't been around we mightn't have thought of soccer and then we'd all be stuffed.

The bottom line is we owe it to Aristotle to give him a run.

Right Half: Attila The Hun: Everyone knows if you are going to have guys like Aristotle and Napoleon in midfield then you also need a hard nut to balance them out.

If Bonaparte can play Attila into the gaps then he will finish the job, plus he can be expected to make a few huge hits in defense as well.

Left Wing: Vladimir



Lenin: Way, way out there on the left wing, right to the very extremes, you never saw a better left-winger than Lenin.

He really cuts them up.

Along with a few mates he ran rings around millions of opposition about 80 years ago, and he'll do the same here.

I know what you're

thinking: that he hasn't been looking that good lately, lying in state in Moscow for 60-odd years.

But if we get Jesus Christ on the job we can get him right for the big day.

(Next Issue: The World XI Keeper and Strikers - JC, a survivor and a suave good-looker!)

Blatter wants to advance World Cup dates

The 2002 World Cup finals could be brought forward to May and June to avoid the mid-summer rainy season in Japan and South Korea, FIFA president Sepp Blatter said.

"In order to safeguard the quality of the matches, it would be difficult to hold them in early July. My idea is the end of May to the end of June," Blatter said.

FIFA is worried that the traditional June-July timeframe for the finals coincides with the wet season in Northeast Asia. A decision on the exact period would be made at a later date after further deliberation, he said.

Blatter said he was also planning to visit North Korea next year at the Stalinist state's invitation. A North Korean member of the International Olympic Committee first extended the invitation to him last September.

He also received a letter inviting him to visit the North's football association.

South Korea is technically at war with the North and the two Koreas are divided by the world's most heavily militarised border.

Blatter said he was open to the possibility of North Korea's participation in hosting some of the matches.

"From the FIFA point of view...if a third party (seeks to co-host the games), this according to our statutes is not possible...but if (North Korea) wants to be a part, FIFA will not close the door," he said.

Blatter did not voice any concerns about Korea's preparations.

"I will make sure this co-hosting will be a success. There is no doubt that Korea will fulfil all conditions and that Korea will be a success," he said.

Earlier this month, a FIFA delegation gave its approval to South Korea's plans for accommodation, transportation and stadiums during the World Cup finals.

FIFA's New Zen

FIFA's executive committee today confirmed Michel Zen-Ruffinen of Switzerland as the world governing body's new general secretary. He had been acting general secretary since April. His predecessor, Sepp Blatter, was elected as president of FIFA in June. Zen-Ruffinen, 39, had been Blatter's deputy since early 1995. The former international referee and lawyer joined FIFA in 1986, taking charge of refereeing matters. He also took over responsibility for legal affairs within FIFA. Zen-Ruffinen, like Blatter, comes from the southern Swiss state of Valais.

No Share rule likely for change

THE Illawarra Soccer Association has its AGM next Sunday and it is likely that one item raised from the floor will be the question of ground sharing.

Currently clubs in the ISA Premier League are not allowed to share grounds with other soccer or non-soccer clubs.

The situation has been brought to a head by the eviction of champions Wollongong White Eagles from their long-standing home Herb Clunas Park.

Last week club officials were busy dismantling their ground fittings with a move to Brandon Park on the cards.

"We have transformed Herb Clunas," a club official told *Inside Soccer*.

"When we came here this was nothing."

"But we will be better off at Brandon Park because overall the ground rent is cheaper – and the services are better."

Ironically, it seemed that the club which won the championship by defeating Port Kembla in

the Grand Final could even lose its Premier League status because of a lack of a suitable ground.

Earlier amalgamation talks with cash-strapped Northern United broke down leaving White Eagles with few alternatives.

But a number of clubs have also become disgruntled with the no-share rule and it is likely that this will be amended at the ISA AGM.

Newly promoted Woonona does not have a suitable ground with its Ocean Park venue not fenced and having a playing surface which at present is second rate.

Plans to improve the ground must be completed by January 31 under the current regulations otherwise the club will not be promoted.

The other promoted club, which also faces a ground inspection, is Shoalhaven City.

The ISA season kicks off in February with the Corrimal Leagues Knockout Cup.

A SPECIAL SPORTS INJURIES REPORT

By Trevor Marshallsea

They're paid millions to stay in shape, keep their bodies finely tuned to ensure peak performance and, hopefully, to avoid injury.

But far from the field of heavy duty physical contact, professional sportsmen are living and limping proof that accidents, often of the freakish or embarrassing kind, can happen.

West Indian cricketer Jimmy Adams provided the most recent example.

He was ruled out of the first Test against South Africa in November, not after being struck by a bouncer or

pulling a hamstring, but by damaging a finger trying to cut a bread roll on the team's flight.

He instantly put himself alongside the likes of Robbie Keane, an Irish international soccer star playing in England for Wolverhampton.

He was put out of action earlier this year with a knee injury in-

The Chick Brodie Award

curred in the perilous pursuit of bending down to pick up a TV remote control in a hotel room.

Dave Beasant mightn't have felt so stupid.

Now with Nottingham Forest, the goalkeeper missed several games while with Chelsea earlier in his career owing to a tangle with a large jar of mayonnaise.

Beasant opened his fridge, the mayo jar fell, and acting on natural instincts he moved to trap it with his foot.

Finding it had far more impact than a well struck volley, Beasant missed several games from the resulting foot damage.

The home was also more dangerous than the playing field for former Manly rugby league backman David Liddiard, who was once ruled out with dental trouble – he pulled a back muscle

while brushing his teeth.

League fans also missed seeing then Illawarra star John Simon for a few weeks earlier this decade when, as one does, he tried to climb a shower wall by sticking his foot into a soap holder, which turned out to be sharp and jagged.

Former Brisbane jockey Mel Schumacher was wasting in a sauna in the mid-1980s when he stumbled and, fell backside first, onto the hot rocks.

Legend has it he'd been taking in as much fluid, of the amber kind, as he'd been losing.

What was clear, however, were the severe burns on his rump, meaning he couldn't sit in a saddle, or much else, for several months.

Australian paceman Terry Alderman missed a sizeable

chunk of his cricket career when he crashed tackled an intruding spectator at the WACA Ground in 1982 and severely damaged his shoulder.

Sporting dinner speakers will no doubt retell the story of New South Wales paceman Simon Cook, still recovering from a leg injury suffered when he was run over by a steamroller in a workplace accident at his council job.

And injury-plagued Test speedster Craig McDermott had to return home from the last West Indies tour after falling off a seawall and injuring his foot.

But it seems English soccer players are particularly prone.

Tottenham's Alan Nielsen was playing with his new baby daughter when she poked him in the eye, ruling him out of several matches.

Lanky Arsenal cap-

tain Tony Adams was so thrilled with a League Cup win at Wembley that he jumped on the back of team-mate Steve Morrow, knocking him to the ground and dislocating his elbow.

And Aston Villa's Alan Wright two years ago developed knee problems as a result of the positioning of the accelerator on his new \$134,335 Ferrari.

He had to swap it for another car.

But perhaps all such hapless cases could be nominated for the Chick Brodie award.

Brodie was keeping goal for Brentford at Colchester long ago in England's lower leagues, when a dog ran onto the field and collided with him.

The details of his injury appear to have been lost in the annals of history, but it eventually ended his career.

ERICSSON CUP SOCCER

Round 10: 12-14 December

Saturday 12 December

Brisbane Strikers v Sydney United

7.00pm

Sunday 13 December

Melbourne Knights v Adelaide Sharks

6.00pm

Perth Glory v Marconi Fairfield

5.00pm

Carlton v Newcastle Breakers

6.00pm

Wollongong City v Gippsland Falcons

6.30pm

Adelaide City v South Melbourne

7.00pm

Monday 04 December

Canberra Cosmos v Northern Spirit

7.00pm

BYE: Sydney Olympic



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NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.





Robbie Cazzoli and John Carusi get ready to rev up with Port Kembla next season

Port Kembla stars targeted

RATED BY most pundits as the best footballing side in the competition last year, beaten ISA Grand Finalist Port Kembla is likely to lose many of its players.

Already Paul Roberts has been signed by NSL Canberra Cosmos and now it looks as though defender Ian Pollari could be on his way also.

"He has been offered more than what we can pay by Kemblawarra," says coach Adrian Alston.

"We will probably lose a few players."

Kemblawarra is set to become a force in the Illawarra Premier League this season with the financial backing of its own recently completed

licensed club and a new stadium to play in.

"They are our local rivals," says Alston.

"I think Kemblawarra will be spending a bit on players."

Goalkeeper Ben Harris, who was the find of Illawarra last season, is likely to be back at the club, however, and another couple of top Can-

berra players are also been mooted as likely recruits including young star Matt Valeri who flies out shortly for trials in Italy.

"He'll try out with second division teams," says his father, former Canberra and APIA star, Walter Valeri.

"That is being a bit more realistic."

Magic Marshall to lead Lions

MARSHALL SOPER has been signed by Illawarra Lions to spearhead their push to regain their NSW Super League status.

Last season the former Socceroo striker coached Fairefield Bulls and despite that club being promoted to Super League the much-travled star has chosen Macedonia park as the latest stage for his talents.

"This is an ambitious club," said club official Krume Spirovski.

"Marshall could have stayed with Fairfield but he chose to come here instead."

And the club is hard at work laying turf on their new complex at berkeley with ambitions of turning it into one of the finest purpose built soccer stadiums in Australia.

"We have 40 acres of land here," added Spirovski.

"The club has had



this for 20 years but now we will do something with it.

"Alread the turf has been laid and we have sunk the pylons for the new grandstand."

"Although it won't be complete by the start of next season we will play our games in the NSW First Division here."

The development of the ground, which is well situated just off the freeway marks a renewed interest in the llawarra club which at its height played in the NSL as Wollongong Macedonia.

Since then they have enjoyed a roller-coaster ride but have set joint targets of de-

Hughes to sign for Bulls

DUMPED Wolves keeper Brett Hughes looks likely to sign for newly-promoted NSW Super League side Fairfield Bulls.

Hughes was picked up by new Bulls coach Joe Watson.

But the Fairfield side may yet lose out on the big keeper with Adelaide Sharks and Canberra Cosmos both said to be interested in his signature.

The 1999 NSW Super League season will kick off in the first week in February and end its regular season in July with the Grand Final set down for August 1.

This is the last season that the Super League will be played during the winter and autumn months with plans to convert to a summer season set to kick in for next October.



NSW SUPER LEAGUE ROUND 1 FIXTURES

Saturday 6 February

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Bankstown City Lions

Macarthur Rams v Central Coast

Blacktown City Demons v Eastern Suburbs

Sunday 7 February

Ryde City v Fairfield Bulls

Leichhardt Tigers v Parramatta Eagles

Canterbury Marrickville v Sutherland Sharks



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Knights scrape home at Falcons Park

The Melbourne Knights returned to the NSL's winners list on Saturday with a 1-0 win against the goal-shy Gippsland Falcons.

Striker Karl Hrovje scored the winner for the Knights in the 61st minute to condemn the Falcons to their third successive loss.

Gippsland has now failed to score in its last five games although it went close to equalising in the 85th minute when skipper Jeff Hopkins had his long range shot well saved by Knights keeper Joey Didulica.

But the Knights dominated much of the match, with former Falcon Michael Reda providing good

service up front and Tom Pondeljak, Zeljko Susa and defender Ransford Banini putting in workmanlike performances.

Knights coach Vid Horvat was happy with his team's performance at Falcons Park.

"We have been playing better every week, even in last week's game against South Melbourne we had better opportunities, but not the luck," he said.

"I have to confess

that I was uneasy about

coming to Gippsland because they are hard to beat at home.

"We have the utmost respect for them especially as they beat us 3-0 in a pre-season match."

The few shining lights for the Gippslanders were a great general's display by Hopkins, while Archie Thompson, who was last week omitted for disciplinary reasons, showed patches of brilliance.

The lacklustre per-

formance was well summed up by coach Stuart Munro, who said it was his team's worst display of the season.

"Everything I've told them went out of the window," said Munro. "The first half was totally unacceptable. The midfield was not working and the strikers were not doing their job. They let me down, let themselves down and most importantly let their supporters down."

**GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 (Hrovje 61)**

Venue: Falcons Park

Man of the Match: Michael Reda MELK



Michael Reda; he gave a Man of the Match performance for his new club

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Newcastle Kid sets Austral alight

Teenage substitute Greg Owens was the hero as Newcastle ended Perth Glory's unbeaten record with a scintillating 3-2 upset in their Ericsson Cup clash at Breakers Stadium on Friday night.

The Breakers played throughout with a quality and determination that belied their lowly league placing and were full value for their victory.

Seventeen-year-old Owens entered the fray in the 72nd minute and set the stadium alight

with his first touch when he pinched the ball off a sloppy Glory defence and fired a sensational shot from 25 metres past Glory goalkeeper Tony Franken.

His second goal, the winner in injury time, was just as good as the first as he volleyed home from 25 metres after the ball had been touched back to him by skipper Shane Pryce (pictured).

The Breakers had squandered a number of chances as well as having three confident

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 3
(Shannon 54, Owens 75, 90)
PERTH GLORY 2 (Despotovski 9, Markovski 76)
Venue: Austral Park
Man of the Match: Shane Pryce NEWC

penalty claims turned down but coach Lee Sterrey was always of the opinion that his side could match any of the top teams in the competition.

"If we play that well week by week, we'll be in a top six position," Sterrey declared.

"We deserved that,

we showed a lot of courage and character.

"We've showed glimpses of that sort of play in patches but our performance tonight where we did it for 90 minutes was right out of the top drawer."

The Glory had taken the lead in the ninth minute when striker

Bobby Despotovski was left unmarked from a Troy Halpin free kick and he headed home easily from six metres out.

Some gutsy Glory defending kept the Breakers at bay for the rest of the first half.

Franken made two saves to deny Sang-Chul Yoon and midfielder Mark Wilson.

Breakers midfielder Freddy Umlil was a constant danger to the Glory defence and was

denied what appeared to be a clear penalty after he had been brought down by Gareth Naven.

Possibly it was his theatrical dive that convinced referee Greg Leverton not to award the spot kick.

Breakers were on level terms in the 54th minute when Robert Shannon appeared at the far post to side foot home from a Yoon cross.

They then took the

lead in the 75th minute with Owens first goal but the celebrations were short-lived as John Markovski headed home a long ball from Troy Halpin within seconds of the restart.

But the Breakers were not to be denied, with Owens popping up again in injury time for the winner amid jubilant scenes from teammates just moments before the final whistle sounded.



Kupresak sets United up in Sydney derby

By Ted Simmons

The ageless legs of Sydney United defender Velimir Kupresak provided the accurate touch needed to snatch a 1-0 national soccer league win over cross-town rival Northern Spirit at the United Sports Centre.

Kupresak, playing one of his best games of the season, sent a long 39th minute pass over the defence to the running Steve Berry who squared the ball to the waiting and unmoved Mile Sterjovski to score.

"Kupresak again had a good, solid defensive match and as usual, gave everything," said United coach David Mitchell.

"We had more chances to score while Spirit were mostly re-

duced to shooting from long range."

Northern Spirit had more of the ball throughout the match but United used it better.

United midfielder Walter Ardone livened the opening stage of the first half with a blazing 30m drive while Matthew Langdon swung in a cross at the other end which

SYDNEY UNITED 1 (Sterjovski 39)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
Venue: Edens Park
Man of the Match: Velimir Kupresak SUTD

was headed away for a corner.

The best early chance fell to United in the 20th minute when Kupresak chipped the defence to Berry whose similar chip was

wide while in a good scoring position.

Both teams were

playing tight defence and most attacks were initiated by long passes down the wings or cross field.

Robbie Slater had a

quiet first half for

Spirit with Langdon on

the left constantly seeking to break through the United backline.

The line-up on the field late in the second half became more notable for its experience with Kupresak, who is 35, joined by Mitchell, Arnold and Slater who are also in their mid-30s.

The best chance for Spirit came three minutes into the second half when a header by Paul Bilokapic was cleared off the line from a corner.



United's veteran defender Velimir Kupresak

Maloney goal sinks Olympic

By Anthony Stavrinou

Two second half goals delivered victory for Marconi in Sunday night's NSL 2-1 derby win against Sydney Olympic at Marconi Stadium.

But Olympic's coach Branko Culina was seething afterwards and claimed refereeing decisions had unsettled his side and cost him the match.

"We made mistakes, fine," Culina said.

"But we weren't beaten by a better Marconi side."

"We were beaten by other elements."

Culina's son Jason opened the account for Olympic in the 37th minute, before being substituted at the break with a broken tooth.

Striker Carlos Gonzalez passed the ball into the path of a powerful run by Culina from just outside the penalty area, shooting the ball past debutant

Marconi keeper David Aceski inside the right hand post.

Only five minutes earlier Culina had come close to being substituted after being struck behind play.

Marconi's chances started as early as the fifth minute when a delicate chip by captain Brad Maloney floated beyond the outstretched arms of Olympic keeper George Bouhoutsos, but was saved by the post.

touched off to defender Mike Smith, whose outswinging left cross was nudged into the back of the net by eagerly awaiting Marconi striker Francis Awaritefe to level the score in the 57th minute.

Olympic came close to taking the lead again just two minutes later after substitute Chris Kalantzis headed a free kick across the goal which was steered away by Aceski.

Marconi wrapped up

vided a cross in front of goal to the oncoming Maloney, who tapped the ball into the net.

A late assault on Marconi's goal by the visitors was to no avail.

Three minutes after Marconi scored its winner, Kalantzis sent a thundering free-kick towards the Marconi goal, where Aceski mishandled the ball and sent it spinning onto the crossbar in a lucky escape for the homeside.

MARCONI 2 (Awaritefe 57, Maloney 73)
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 J Culina 37)

Venue: Marconi Stadium

Man of the Match: Francis Awaritefe MARC

But the homeside made amends following the break after good lead up work from midfielder Vlado Zoric.

Shielding the ball with his back to Olympic's goal, Zoric

the match in the 73rd minute, this time through their earlier cheated captain Maloney.

Running onto a ball from by Zoric, Kris Trajanovski rounded the keeper and pro-

Olympic's late substitute Scott Baillie saw his shot cleared off the goal-line by Marconi's substitute defender Buddy Farah in the dying seconds of the match.

Brad Maloney



Milosevic stars but Sharks held

By Hannibal Rossi

An understrength Carlton clung to fourth spot by holding home specialist Adelaide Sharks to a 1-1 draw at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday night.

Midfielder Robert Markovac pounced on a ninth minute fumble by Sharks keeper Nathan Wildy to give Carlton a shock lead.

But the Sharks kept their composure to hit back quickly and equalised through ex-Portsmouth striker Hamilton Thorp in the 17th minute from close range. Carlton took the field minus pivotal midfielder Andrew Marth (suspended) and

ADELAIDE SHARKS 1 (Thorp 17)
CARLTON 1 (Markovac 9)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Man of the Match: Branko Milosevic ADSH

Olyroo sweeper Simon Colosimo but got a lucky break to open the scoring.

Sharks defender Con Kokkinopoulis kicked a high clearance which Wildy dropped and Markovac rifled a half volley into the roof of the open net.

But the Sharks took control in the midfield for the rest of the half with captain Branko Milosevic in startling form.

Their pressure paid off when striker Derek Poimer unlocked the

Carlton defence on the left byline and he crossed for Thorp to sidefoot his second goal of the season.

Carlton keeper Adrian Cagalj produced a reflex save in the dying seconds of the first half to deny Thorp a second goal.

The Sharks went hunting for a winner early in the second half and midfielder John Gibson beat Cagalj's tight angle in the 56th minute but defender Marcus Stergiopoulos

cleared off the goal-line. Carlton proved dangerous on the break and Andy Vlahos found Wildy in top form during the later stages.

Wildy denied the speedy Carlton striker in one-on-one contests twice in the last ten minutes as Carlton took a shot at trying to win its first away match of the season.

But Wildy was up to the task to redeem his error in the first half which handed Carlton its goal.

Carlton's Brazilian striker Alex Moreira was replaced in the 54th minute after sustaining a minor facial injury.



Clarkson gem keeps South Melbourne happy

BY ALAN CLARK

A minor grass-fire behind the banked terracing across for the main grandstand at Bob Jane Stadium looked like it would comprise all the second-half action of note until South Melbourne's David Clarkson let fly a 30 metre blaster which scorched Wollongong Wolves goalkeeper Leslie Pogliacomi's hands before flying high into the net.

It was Clarkson's thirteenth goal for South in his 151st game, surely testimony to this hard-working midfielder's main role as ball-winner and playmaker, rather than

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Coveny 9, Clarkson 85)
WOLLONGONG CITY 1 (Reid 24)
Venue: Bob Jane (Lakeside) Stadium
Man of the Match: David Clarkson SMEL

South Melbourne two goal margin.

It had all looked so promising after just 24 minutes of play - indeed, most who were

present for the previous match at that ground - between South Melbourne and Carlton - were disinclined to leave their seats as history looked likely to repeat itself.

Vaughan Coveny had started the scoring action in the eighth minute, leaping highest to power a ball home at

straight from all the coaching manuals - downwards and to the post.

Pogliacomi got both hands to it, but not until after it had crossed the line by a discernible margin.

Coveny was burning up the grass himself in these early moments, drawing a foul tackle and a subsequent yellow card from David Huxley in the 12th minute, and just two minutes later started the move that led to

led to a defensive deflection and a corner.

Lozanovski took the corner, it was aimed perfectly for Michael Curcija whose header also found the net.

But Wollongong fought back, and after 24 minutes had reduced the deficit.

David Huxley had made an impressive run down the left wing and sent in a square ball into the middle.

Paul Reid had seen the potential, moved into a clever supporting position, and sent the arriving ball low to Jason Petkovic's left from 25 metres.

South's Olyroo Tansel Baser and Fiji international Esala Masi managed to earn themselves a dressing down by referee Mark Shield just after the half-hour, and there were subsequently to be slight niggles in some of the duels around the ground for a while.

Masi drew a caution shortly after following a straight-arm tackle on Steve Iosifidis, more appropriate for another football code.

Wollongong took the game up to their more fancied opponents.

Just before the break a move involving Reid, Sebastian Sinozic, and Scott Chipperfield looked likely to bring the sides level again, but Chipperfield's blast sailed harmlessly over.

After the game, a disappointed Wolves' coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said: "It's something we were working on during the last two weeks actually, and what was disappointing is he didn't even get a shot on the goal let alone the target."

In first-half added-

time Masi started a move involving Sasha Petrovski then Matthew Horsley, but the Wolves' captain's shot was also too high.

The second half was unspectacular even if it didn't lack industry.

Both sides negated each other's creative play, and there was little of the flowing possession football we had earlier seen.

Fausto De Amicis - normally a most impassionate player - threw his hands up in frustration after being dispossessed whilst waiting for his upfield players to make a movement.

It was after that moment that South Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou sent all three of his substitutes on a warm-up.

The usual exchange of substitutions started on the hour, but none seemed to be able to change the shape of the match - then petering out to the extent that

the grass-fire was drawing the greater number of eyes.

It was left to Clarkson - South player who had rarely had a moment out of action

since the season's start - to bring the contest to a close with a goal of the quality even a regular scorer would recall many seasons later.

After the game Postecoglou said: "I'm not singing from the rooftops, but I'm pretty happy we got our second win (on the trot).

"I thought the first 25 minutes was good - I thought we played really well.

"We probably won the game in that period.

"After that, it was pretty scrappy, pretty much up until the last ten minutes.

"Wollongong were certainly making it hard for us, and we didn't get a chance to break them open.

"That forced the

game to be not as free-flowing as it usually is."

Wolves coach Theodorakopoulos said: "We certainly applied a little pressure.

"One of the reasons South Melbourne didn't perform to their usual fluid self is because we didn't allow them to.

"I think our boys should get some credit.

"South had two half-chances and they were both capitalised.

"We came to Melbourne, we played the champions of Australia, and we certainly matched them.

"I know the boys are disappointed because they felt that they deserved possibly to pinch a draw, which would have been a very, very good result for us.

"Now we're looking a long long way up the ladder to try and see where the other sides are."



Vaughan Coveny, the in-form Kiwi striker was on target again

converter.

But his 85th minute goal was enough to enliven a match gone torpid, and restore a

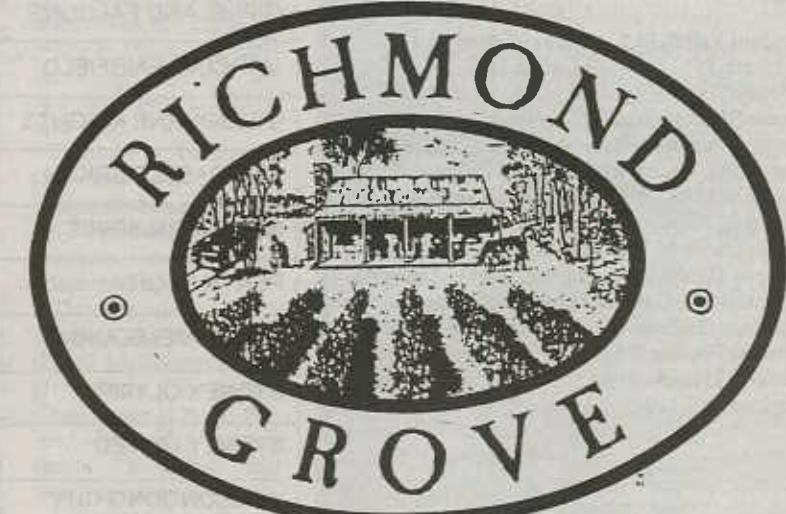
the far post after a well-flighted Paul Trimboli cross from the right wing.

It was a header

South's second.

It was Coveny's run down the left and his square ball pass to Goran Lozanovski which

RICHMOND
GROVE
WINES



SCOREBOARD

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ERICSSON CUP

Round 9

FRIDAY 04 December

Newcastle 3 Perth Glory 2
Shannon 54 Despotovski 9
Owens 73, 87 Markovski 74

Venue: Austral Park

Yellow Cards:

Newcastle: Roberts, Umlil
Perth: Harnwell, G Naven, Miller

Attendance: 3,637

SATURDAY 05 December

Gippsland 0 Melbourne Knights 1
Hrvanje 61

Venue: Falcons Park

Falcons: Jevdjovic, Anderson, Gotis, Hopkins, MacNicol, Thompson, Hutchinson (Canosa 77), Perinovic (Di Iorio 77), Vargas (Savage 64), Puca, Hastie

Yellow Cards: Gotis, Hopkins, MacNicol, Thompson

Knights: Didulica, Kovacevic, Banini, Vukadin, Jolic, Sevin, Reda, Podeljak (Nastevski 89), Susa, Kelic (Kutlesovski 67), Hrvanje (Deak 75)

Yellow Card: Susa

Referee: J Blaney

Attendance: 1,767

SUNDAY 06 December

Adelaide Sharks 1 Carlton 1

Thorp 17 Markovac 9

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Sharks: Wildy, Alagich, Castro, Souris, Kokkinoplitis, Milosevic (Artone 61), Thorp (Porter 71), Poimer, Duric, Pezos (Vidakovic 79), Gibson

Yellow Cards: Gibson 28

Carlton: Cagalj, Anthopolous, Stergiopoulos, Douglas, Bresciano, Moreira (Josifovski 54), Lapsansky, Vlahos, Tricarico, D Cervinski, Markovac

Referee: M Breeze

Attendance: 3,097

Sydney United 1 Northern Spirit 0

Sterjovski 38

Venue: Edensor Park

United: Crews, Santalab, Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkic, Eagleton, Berry, Ardone, Burns, Caleta, Stejovski. Subs: Mitchell, Townsend, Griffiths

Spirit: Henderson, Rusan, Casserly, Marusic, Slater, Moss (Bosnar 66), Watkins (Arnold 66), Bilokapic, Zane (Cunico 57), Langdon, Enes

Yellow Cards: Slater, Bilokapic, Enes

Referee: S Micallef

Attendance: 6,236

South Melbourne 3 Wollongong City 1

Coveny 8 Reid 24

Curcija 15

Clarkson 85

South: Petkovic, Iosifidis, de Amicis, Orlic, Clarkson, Panopoulos (Polak 73), Coveny, Trimble (Tsekenis 85), Curcija (J Anatasiasidis)

Yellow Cards: Orlic, Curcija

Wollongong: Pogliacomi, Souris, Ceccoli, Sinozic, Horsley, Chipperfield (Surjan 73), Petrovski, Huxley (Dimoski 60), Langan, Masi (Brooks 79), Reid

Yellow Cards: Souris, Petrovski, Huxley, Masi

Referee: M Shield

Attendance: 6,616

Marconi Fairfield 2 Sydney Olympic 1

Awaritefe 55 J Culina 36

Maloney 70

Venue: Marconi Stadium

Marconi: Aceski, Gibson, M Babic, Phillips (Farrar 58), Longo, McDonald, S Babic (Trajanovski 6), Maloney, Smith (Care 62), Awaritefe, Zoric

Yellow Cards: M Babic, Phillips

Sydney: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Tsekinis, Culina (Kalantzis 45), Cardozo, Emerton, Brennan, Augerinos (L Carle 72), Juric, Durakovic, Gonzalez (Baillie 72)

Referee: B Hugo

Attendance: 7,127

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Newcastle Breaker	4	4	0	0	15	4	12
2 Queenslan Academy	4	3	1	0	12	4	10
3 Northern Spirit	4	3	0	1	8	6	9
4 Marconi Fairfield	4	2	1	1	12	4	7
5 Sydney Olympic	4	2	1	1	10	4	7
6 AIS	3	2	0	1	10	3	6
7 Spirit Colts	3	1	1	1	8	4	4
8 Sydney United	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
9 Wollongong Wolves	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
10 Marconi Colts	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
11 ACT Academy	4	1	0	3	6	20	3
12 Sydney Olympic Acad	3	0	2	2	2	7	2
13 Wollongong Colts	3	0	1	2	1	10	1
14 NSW Institute	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
15 Sydney United Colts	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Victorian Institute	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
2 Bulleen Inter	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
3 South Melbourne	4	2	0	2	3	4	6
4 Carlton	2	1	0	1	8	3	3
5 Melbourne Knights	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
6 Gippsland Falcons	2	0	0	2	0	9	0

ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Perth Glory	9	7	1	1	22	9	22
2 Marconi Fairfield	8	6	1	1	19	9	19
3 South Melbourne	9	5	2	2	20	15	17
4 Sydney United	9	5	1	3	14	12	16
5 Carlton	9	4	2	3	21	11	14
6 Adelaide City	7	4	1	2	11	8	13
7 Sydney Olympic	9	4	1	4	11	15	13
8 Adelaide Sharks	8	3	2	3	13	11	11
9 Northern Spirit	8	3	1	4	6	10	10
10 Brisbane Strikers	8	2	3	3	11	12	9
11 Melbourne Knights	8	3	0	5	8	11	9
12 Gippsland Falcons	8	2	2	4	4	10	8
13 Wollongong City	8	2	2	4	10	15	8
14 Newcastle Breakers	8	2	1	5	10	15	7
15 Canberra Cosmos	8	0	0	8	6	27	0

INSIDE SOCCER: Australia's weekly soccer Bible
NOW OUT EVERY TUESDAY

LEADING SCORERS

7 John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)	2 Alex DURIC (ADSH)	1 Brett EMMERTON (SOLY)	1 Kasey WEHRMAN (BRIS)
7 Mile STERJOVSKI (SUTD)	2 Jeremy HARRIS (BRIS)	1 Andy HARPER (BRIS)	1 Brad WIECZOREK (NEWC)
6 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)	2 Chris KALANTZIS (SOLY)	1 Jeremy HARRIS (BRIS)	1 Mark WILSON (NEWC)
6 Vaughan COVENY (SMEL)	2 Vas KALOGERACOS (PRTH)	1 Brad HASSELL (ADLC)	1 Sang-Choi YOON (NEWC)
6 Brad MALONEY (MARC)	2 Ivan KELIC (MELK)	1 Will HASTIE (GIPS)	1 Chris ZORICICH (BRIS)
5 Francis AWARITEFE (MARC)	2 Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)	1 Danny HAY (PRTH)	
5 Damian MORI (ADL)	2 Pan KIM (MARC)	1 Chay HEWS (BRIS)	
4 Michael CURCIJA (SMEL)	2 Lubo LAPANSKY (CARL)	1 Matt HORSLEY (WOLL)	
4 Alex MOREIRA (CARL)	2 Kresimir MARUSIC (SPRT)	1 Karl HROVJE (MELK)	
4 Joe TRICARICO (CARL)	2 Gary OWENS (NEWC)	1 Harry JAMES (CANB)	
3 Peter BULJAN (CANB)	2 Sasho PETROVSKI (WOLL)	1 Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)	
3 Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)	2 Derek POIMER (ADSH)	1 Hrvje KARL (MELK)	
3 Simon COLOSIMO (CARL)	2 Mark RUDAN (SPRT)	1 Dominic LONGO (MARC)	
3 John GIBSON (ADSH)			
3 Joel GRIFFITHS (SUTD)			
3 Troy HALPIN (PRTH)			
3 Goran LOZANOVSKI (SMEL)			
3 Dino MENNILLO (ADLC)			
3 Scott MILLER (PRTH)			
2 John ANASTASIADIS (SMEL)			
2 Zejko BABIC (MARC)			
2 Tansel BASER (SMEL)			
2 Marco BRESCIANO (CARL)			
2 Harry CARL (MELK)			
2 David CERVINSKI (MELK)			
2 Sean CRANNEY (BRIS)			
2 Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (PRTH)			



	ADLC	ADSH
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SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY **NORTHMEAD SIGNS**

BELGIUM

DIVISION 1
 Friday 04 December
 Westerlo 1
 Saturday 05 December
 Ostend 4
 Ghent 2
 Charleroi 1
 Excelsior Mouscron 2
 Postponed (due to snow)
 Standard Liege v Lierse
 Beveren v Sint-Truiden
 Sunday 06 December
 Kortrijk v Anderlecht
 Genk v Harelbeke

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
1. Club Bruges	17	12	3	2	34	16	39
2. Genk	16	10	3	3	35	19	33
3. Lokeren	17	9	4	4	37	21	31
4. Standard Liege	16	9	1	6	23	16	28
5. Excelsior Mouscron	17	7	3	3	31	27	28
6. Ghent	17	7	6	4	29	32	27
7. Sint-Truiden	16	7	5	4	23	16	26
8. Westerlo	17	8	2	7	37	29	26
9. Lierse	16	8	1	7	30	27	25
10. Anderlecht	16	6	5	5	26	25	23
11. Germinal Ekeren	17	6	4	7	28	28	22
12. Eendracht Aalst	17	6	4	7	29	34	22
13. Harelbeke	16	4	5	7	20	27	17
14. Charleroi	17	3	7	7	23	25	16
15. Beveren	16	4	3	9	18	26	15
16. Lommel	17	4	3	10	18	28	15
17. Ostend	17	2	5	10	16	40	11
18. Kortrijk	16	1	4	11	23	44	7

ENGLAND

FA CUP: Round 2
 Friday 04 December
 Darlington 1
 Saturday 05 December
 Cardiff 3
 Doncaster 0
 Exeter 2

Fulham 4	Hartlepool 2
Lincoln 4	Stevenage 1
Luton 1	Hull 2
Macclesfield 4	Cambridge 1
Mansfield 1	Southport 2
Notts County 1	Wigan 1
Oldham 1	Brentford 1
Preston 2	Walsall 0
Rochdale 0	Rotherham 0
Scunthorpe 2	Bedlington 0
Swansea 1	Stoke 0
Torquay 0	Bournemouth 1
Wrexham 2	York 1
Wycombe 1	Plymouth 1
Yeovil 2	Northampton 0
Sunday 06 December	Leyton Orient
Kingstonian	

WORTHINGTON CUP
 Quarter Finals
 02 December 1998

Leicester 1	Blackburn 0
Tottenham 3	Manchester United 1
PREMIER LEAGUE	
Saturday 05 December	
Aston Villa 1	Manchester United 1
Blackburn Rovers 1	Charlton Athletic 0
Derby County 0	Arsenal 0
Everton 0	Chelsea 0
Leeds United 4	West Ham United 0
Leicester City 2	Southampton 0
Tottenham Hotspur 2	Liverpool 1
Wimbledon 2	Coventry City 1
Sunday 06 December	
Middlesbrough v Newcastle United	
Monday 07 December	
Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Aston Villa	15	8	6	1	23	13	30
Manchester United	15	8	5	2	31	17	29
Leeds United	16	6	8	2	26	14	26
Arsenal	16	6	8	2	15	7	26
West Ham United	16	7	5	4	20	20	26
Chelsea	14	6	7	1	22	13	25
Middlesbrough	15	5	8	2	24	17	23
Liverpool	16	6	4	6	27	21	22
Wimbledon	16	6	5	5	21	26	23
Derby County	16	5	7	4	15	14	22

Tottenham Hotspur	16	6	4	6	21	24	22
Leicester City	16	5	6	5	18	18	21
Newcastle United	15	5	4	6	19	19	19
Everton	16	4	7	5	10	15	19
Sheffield Wednesday	15	4	4	7	14	15	16
Charlton Athletic	16	3	7	6	22	24	16
Coventry City	16	4	3	8	14	23	15
Blackburn Rovers	16	3	3	10	15	24	12
Nottingham Forest	15	2	5	8	12	24	11
Southampton	16	2	4	10	12	33	10

DIVISION 1

Saturday 05 December	
Bristol City 2	Sheffield United 0
Bury 2	West Bromwich 0
Huddersfield 4	Crystal Palace 0
Ipwich 1	Birmingham 0
Oxford 0	Bradford 1
Portsmouth 2	Crewe 0
Queens Park Rangers 3	Port Vale 2
Sunderland 1	Stockport 0
Swindon 1	Norwich 1
Tranmere 1	Grimsby 2
Watford 0	Barnsley 0
Wolverhampton 1	Bolton 1

(as at 5.12.98)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Sunderland	21	13	7	4	19	15	46
Ipswich Town	22	12	6	4	31	12	42
Watford	22	10	7	5	37	31	37
Norwich	21	10	6	5	35	27	36
Bolton	21	9	8	4	40	30	35
Huddersfield	22	10	5	7	33	36	35
Birmingham	22	10	5	7	30	23	35
Bradford	21	10	4	7	36	25	34
Sheffield United	22	9	6	7	33	35	33
Wolverhampton	22	9	6	7	31	22	33
Grimsby	22	9	5	8	27	26	32
West Brom	21	9	3	9	39	37	30
Barnsley	22	6	9	7	32	30	27
Crystal Palace	19	8	3	8	30	34	27
Bury	22	7	6	9	17	24	27
Stockport	22	5	11	6	26	27	26
Queens Park Rangers	22	7	4	11	25	32	25
Swindon	22	6	10	30	35	24	
Oxford Utd	22	6	5	11	25	36	23
Tranmere	21	4	10	7	27	33	22
Port Vale	22	6	4	12	26	43	22
Portsmouth	21	5	6	10	29	35	21

FRANCE

LE CHAMPIONNAT

Sochaux 0	Lorient 1						
Montpellier 2	Le Havre 0						
Metz 0	Rennes 0						
PSG 0	Toulouse 0						
Nantes 2	Bastia 0						
Lens 3	Strasbourg 0						
Thursday 03 December							
Auxerre 1	Marseille 1						
Monaco 3	AS Nancy 0						
Lyon 2	Bordeaux 1						
(4.12.98)							
Bordeaux	17	12	2	3	33	14	38
Marseille	17	11	5	1	31	13	38
Rennes	17	8	4	5	21	19	28
Monaco	17	8	3	6	26		

FEEL THE POWER

**NOVELL
CANBERRA
COSMOS
v
NORTHERN SPIRIT**

Bruce Stadium

Monday 14 December

KICK OFF 7.00pm

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR: NOVELL

